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ABSTRACT

The proceedings of 34 workshops held to consider ways of solving the problems of black single mothers, held in 1984 in different cities, are collected in this report. All of the workshops were part of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's pilot program, "Summit II: A Call to Action in Suppprt of Black Single Mothers," an effort to strengthen the network of black women's organizations in an attempt to link single mothers with appropriate agencies and services. In addition to presenting the recommendations and highlights of each workshop, information on the racial demography of each summit city and on the logistics of each workshop are provided, along with lists of workshop topics and agencies represented. The findings of workshops conducted in these cities are summarized: Auburn, Alabama; Mobile, Alabama; Montgomery, Alabama; Phoenix, Arizona; Los Angeles, California; Dover, Delaware; Wilmington, Delaware; Washington, DC.; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Columbus, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; East St. Louis, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; Baltimore, Maryland; College Park, Maryland; Detroit, Michigan; Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota; Jackson, Mississippi; Kansas City, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; Charlotte, North Carolina; Cleveland, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Columbia, South Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; Nashville, Tennessee; Houston, Texas; Newport News, Virginia. The report begins and ends with statements from leaders of Delta Sigma Theta. (KH)

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SUMMIT II

A CALL TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF BLACK SINGLE MOTHERS

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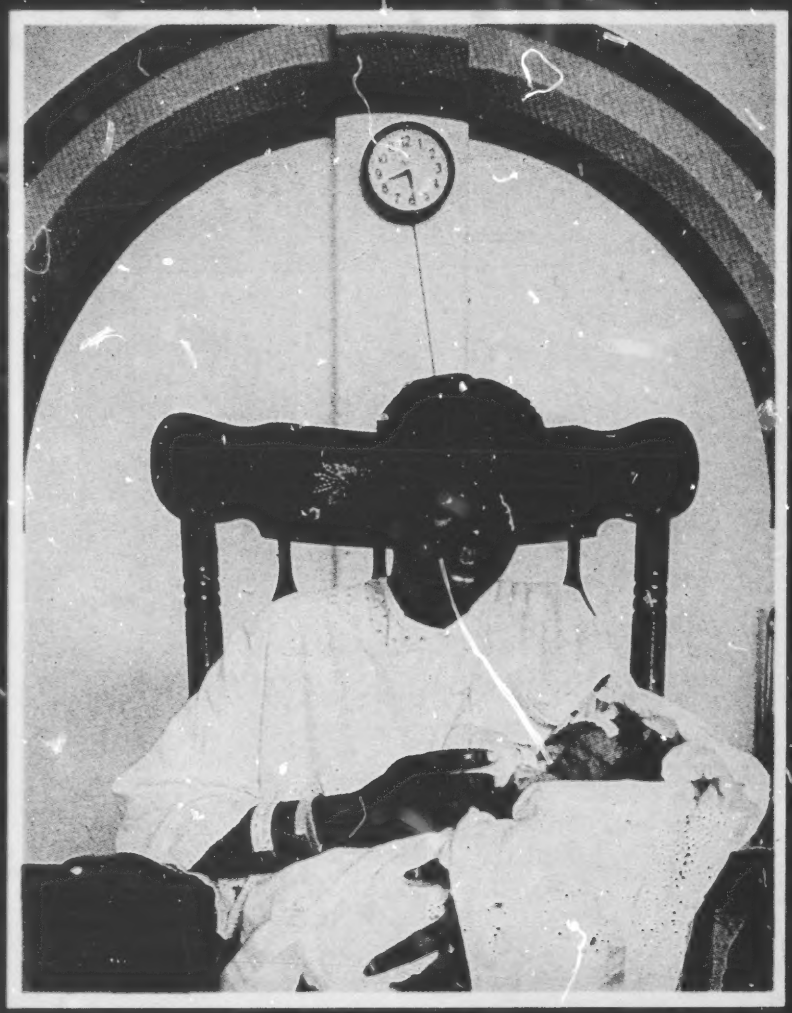

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

SUMMIT II:

A Call to Action
In Support of Black Single Mothers

Proceedings of thirty-four of thirty-eight conferences sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in cities throughout the United States

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A CALL TO ACTION

Hortense G. Canady
Lansing, Michigan

Summit II — A Call to Action in Support of Black Female Heads of Households was announced by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. during a press conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel on January 27, 1984. Consultations were scheduled in more than 30 cities during May and June.

A previous Black Women's Summit was called by the former National President of Delta Sigma Theta, Mona H. Bailey of Seattle, in 1981 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. More than 500 representatives from the majority of black women's organizations in the nation were in attendance. This major conference was reminiscent of the first black women's summit held in 1895 in Boston, Massachusetts. Many of the issues under discussion were the same: education, health, racism, employment, political equality, and the need for a coalition of black women.

One of the major recommendations from the 1981 Summit called for strengthening the network of black women's organizations in order to forge solutions to common problems. Summit II was envisioned as following the recommendation to network, to formulate programs and strategies, to obtain commitments, and to join forces in combatting polices that are both sexist and racist.

Networking first started at home within the national structure of Delta and spread to the more than 50 chapters in 38 cities that participated in the pilot Summit II program, and from those chapters into the greater metropolitan area via participating agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Summit II resulted from a collaborative effort by three major national committees of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.: Projects, Program Planning and Development (Mrs. Lynnette Taylor, Alexandria, Virginia, chair); the Social Action Commission (Dr. Bernadine Denning, Detroit, Michigan, chair), and Publications, Public Relations/Communications (Dr. Grace Hewell, Washington, D.C., chair). The three chairpersons joined in the preparation of the program format, research materials, and the three kits (one per committee area) sent to each of the chapters in the Summit II cities.

Three major departments of Delta National Headquarters (Program, Planning and Development, Membership Services, and Finance Administration) provided support services and excellent teamwork, ensuring the success of this program. By action of Delta's Executive Committee, a $100 stipend was awarded to participating chapters, not as an incentive, but after they were identified. The gesture was to express support for the Summit II concept. The grants helped with postage and other incidentals.

Initially, the pilot project was envisioned as including two cities from each of the seven regions of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, for a total of 14 areas. Interest was so high among the Delta chapters, however, that the original number was increased to more than 30 cities. To date, more than 128 chapters have indicated their involvement in Summit II consultations in their communities or in follow-up programs for those chapters that participated in the pilot program.

The need for such a project, one which links single mothers to appropriate agencies and services, is great. There is an abundance of empirical and hard data defining the problems of single motherhood, but a dearth of support systems designed to ameliorate the problems.

The problems of black single mothers need immediate attention and a targeted problem-solving approach. Some specifics: Currently, households headed by black women are nearly 50 percent of all black families. Fifty-five percent of black infants are born to single mothers. Many of these children are reared in poverty due to the lack of a father's income and the fact that most women, especially black women, earn far less than men.

From 1960 to 1982, as families headed by black women rose to 47 percent from 21 percent, the percentge of employed adult black men plunged to 55 percent from 74 percent. Even those black men who do work earn an average of $5,500 less than white men annually.

For many years, the welfare system did not permit an adult male to be in a home that received Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payments. Today, states are permitted *but are not required* to cover two-parent families in which the male is unemployed or underemployed. New welfare requirements make a stepfather liable for the support, not only of the mother, but for all of the children.

More white women, too, are single parents as a result of divorce. But white women more often remarry than black women, and the percentage of divorced black women is double that of divorced white women.

Despite the poverty of the majority of black single female heads of households, it is important to note that less than half are dependent upon the welfare system. Although the myth that the welfare system fosters dependency is pervasive, a recent University of Michigan study soundly refutes the theory that dependency on welfare can become so entrenched it creates a subculture with values that encourage remaining in poverty and discourage self-reliance.

We must be cognizant of the fact, however, that many of the regulations that govern the welfare system and that interact with other systems, in effect, provide disincentives for women with children to cut the bonds of dependency.

As an example, women with children who attempt to obtain the skills required for gainful employment by attending institutions of higher education are only allowed financial aid for tuition and fees. Allowances for books, transportation or various college-related expenses which are routinely awarded to other poor college students are subtracted from their food stamp allowance. They are told, in effect, let your children eat your books!

Poverty is not the only agenda item. The problems faced by single mothers extend across socioeconomic lines because there are few support systems in place for single mothers and their children regardless of their financial status. Other areas of concern include housing, legal rights, substance and physical abuse, physical and mental health and much more.

Summit II is a call to action rather than a philosophical meeting to examine issues. It is a call to determine solutions, rather than to discuss problems. The workshop format was structured so that each of the more than 30 cities could recommend programs and projects that can be implemented at the local level.

This Delta publication profiles 34 summits, detailing some participating chapters' current programs and projects that address the problems of the single mother. Highlighted also are substantive recommendations, the end product of summit participants' collective, focused intelligence on the problems of single black motherhood.

It is hoped that this publication will be a valuable guide to other groups as they forge a unified approach to problem solving in this area.

STATEMENT by the HONORARY COCHAIRS

U.S. Rep. Katie Hall (D-Indiana)

Barbara Proctor

We are proud to introduce the proceedings from thirty-four Delta workshops organized as Summit II: A Call to Action in Support of Black Single Mothers. These workshops were held in response to the call from Delta National President Hortense G. Canady in January 1984.

This accomplishment mirrors Delta Sigma Theta's concern over the growing plight of black single mothers. The concerted action of many of its chapters reflects Delta's strength and organizational ability, nationally and locally. It is fitting that Delta's membership of 125,000 women (some single mothers themselves) should pledge to devote their time and energies to the needs of black single mothers.

The accounts of the sessions are instructive and reflect the many diverse views of women at all economic levels. The recommendations should be helpful to other Delta chapters or other organizations addressing this problem. They are especially valuable because they grew out of the expertise and experience of a wide range of speakers and panelists and that of many of their listeners.

We commend these proceedings to your attention.

Katie Hall
Member of Congress

Barbara Proctor
President and Chief Executive Officer
Proctor & Gardner Advertising, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois

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STATEMENT by the COCHAIRS

Bernadine Denning, Chair
Social Action Commission

Lynnette Taylor, Chair
National Projects/Program Planning
and Development Committee

The Projects/Program Planning and Development Committee, and the Social Action Commission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. were delighted to respond to the challenge issued by our National President Hortense Golden Canady in January 1984. Black single mothers in this country comprise a growing population. Inflation and the cost of living, including day care, have driven more than 53 percent of the female population into the work force. With close to 46 percent of black housewives headed by single parents, it is a necessity that some national organization respond to the dire needs and concerns.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service organization, is the logical advocacy group for our sisters. The reality of the single head of household crosses all educational, economic, social and racial lines. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. launched a pilot program in the month of May involving thirty-eight cities with Summit II: A Call to Action in Support of Black Single Mothers. We are pleased to present the findings in these proceedings of thirty-four of the conferences. The coalition building that took place during the summits will be continued with activities based on the needs of the local communities. Many of these activities will be along the legislative and programmatic fronts. For additional information you may contact Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 1707 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 (202/483-5460).

Bernadine Denning
Chair, Social Action Commission

Lynnette Taylor
Chair, Projects/Program Planning
and Development Committee

STATEMENT OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ella McNair

Ella McNair, director, Program Planning and Development, Delta Headquarters

The Program Department assisted in the overall development and implementation of Summit II: A Call to Action In Support of Black Single Mothers. Staff researched and gathered demographic data on single black mothers and female heads of households — national data as well as information for certain cities — in preparation for the Summit II national press conference and for the backgrounding kits which were to be disseminated to chapters hosting the conferences. The national press conference, held Friday, January 27, 1984 in Washington, D.C., launched the national Summit II initiative. During the conference, staff registered members of the print and electronic media and responded to their questions.

Under the direction of the Social Action Commission and the Projects/Program Planning and Development Committee, staff prepared materials for two different backgrounding kits for the local Summit II site coordinators. The Publications, Public Relations/Communications Committee also prepared a third kit for local coordinators to increase publicity on the Summits. The kits were designed to assist coordinators in the planning and implementation of the conferences. Materials inserted included a conference planning guide, statistical information on single female heads of households, examples of model chapter programs, newspaper artices related to Summit II, articles on issues affecting single female heads of households, and related items. Copies of both kits were also disseminated to other national organizations and individuals.

Articles on single mothers, such as the one appearing in the May 1984 issue of Essence magazine, triggered numerous calls and inquiries from the public and the press regarding Delta's involvement in this issue. Calls averaged fifty per day. Staff have answered telephone and written queries from the public concerning Summit II and have made referrals to appropriate Summit II sites for persons desiring to become involved with summit activities. In addition, information was provided to the media by a variety of means, including radio and television talk show appearances and in-person interviews with print reporters.

A list of the Summit II site coordinators and the date of each conference was prepared and disseminated to appropriate individuals and organizations, including the press, Calmar Communications, Inc. (the Chicago public relations firm retained by Delta year round), Delta national officers, and others eligible to receive it upon request.

A file of national and local press information and newspaper articles on Summit II has been established. The Program Department continually gathers a variety of resource materials — books, newspaper and magazine articles, organization reports, etc. — on single black mothers and female-headed families for its Resource Library.

Staff corresponded regularly with Summit II site coordinators about their conferences to give input, share information, and provide technical assistance on an as-needed basis. Staff also have attended Summit II conferences in a number of cities and assist in identifying possible follow-up activities.

Program Department staff have made presentations on the Summit II initiative at Delta regional conferences as well as to other organizations. The department has requested and received conference reports from each site. Copies of each report received were mailed to Calmar Communications, which prepared this final account of summit proceedings based on the reports and scores of interviews.

NOTES ON BASIC INFORMATION PAGES OF REPORTS BY CITY

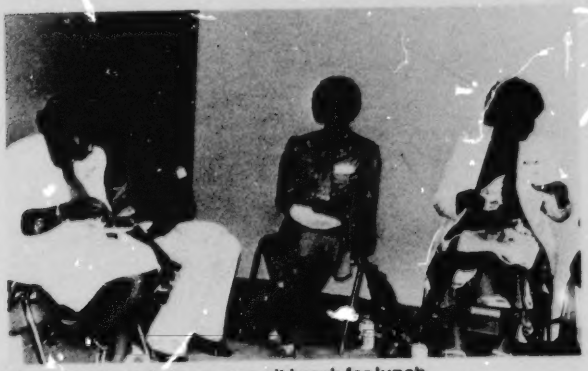
1. All demographic information is taken from the 1980 U.S. Census.
2. Figures for the black single mothers are from the Census Bureau category, "Female householder, no husband present, with own children under 18."
3. The percentage of black single mothers given is of the total number of black families in that particular city.
   Example: *4,179 or 25.0 percent* (of all black families in Mobile, Alabama)
4. To protect the anonymity of the single mother participants quoted who are not members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or were not guest speakers or panelists, such mothers have been identified by their initials only.

AUBURN-OPELIKA, ALABAMA

	Total	Percent
Population	51,823	100.0
White	38,839	75.0
Black	11,832	22.7
Latino	555	1.1
Other Minorities	597	1.2
Black Single Mothers	256	24.8

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY
Auburn Alumnae Chapter
Kappa Upsilon Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT
Saturday, June 2, 1984 8:30 A.M.–1 P.M.
Foy Union Building
Auburn University



Participants at Auburn summit break for lunch.

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)
Bernice Rutledge

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	12
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	8
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	4
TOTAL	24

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE
- Registration/Coffee and Doughnuts
- Two Workshops
- Wrap-up Sessions and Evaluation
- Lunch

WORKSHOP TOPICS
• Financial Planning • Day Care Homes and Nutrition

AGENCIES REPRESENTED
• Auburn Head Start • Alabama State Office of Pensions and Securities •Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority • National Organization for Women.

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Establishment of a coalition of agencies to address problems of the black single mother
- Child care and transportation for next summit
- Welfare reform — mothers are penalized financially (their benefits cut if they work), thus reducing their incentive to work

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HIGHLIGHTS from the AUBURN SUMMIT

"A mother getting public assistance through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program typically gets $124 a month for one child. If she works less than 10 hours a week, she is also eligible for a rent check. These programs are not designed to help the mother and they give her no incentive to work," said Bernice Rutledge, coordinator for the half-day Delta summit organized by Auburn Alumnae and Kappa Upsilon undergraduates in Alabama.

This economic issue was the chief concern of the twenty-four persons who came to the Auburn University campus on June 2 for the Auburn summit. "If mothers work, their Medicaid or Medicare benefits are cut off. Women are penalized for working," said Ms. Rutledge.

Judy Liken of the Alabama State Office of Pensions and Securities described eligibility requirements for various public assistance programs, stimulating further discussion.

The twenty-four participants also heard a presentation on day care homes by Earl Tarver of Auburn Head Start. He reported that day care homes provide a sort of extended family. Children are kept in a more intimate, home-like situation, as opposed to institutional day care centers with larger groups, and perhaps a little less personal attention.

D. H., a 26-year-old single mother of three children, said she has frequent anxiety attacks and could benefit from a workshop on stress. After the birth of her last child, a four-year-old girl, she developed a heart valve condition, stomach difficulties, and migraine, sinus and tension headaches. D. H. added that she is under financial and emotional stress because she has been unsuccessful in getting support from the fathers of her first two children and in finding employment.

The first two fathers practically "disowned" their oldest children and provide no support at all. "I went through the courts, but the judge told one of the fathers to pay only $25 a week and most times I don't get that.

"I've gotten to the point that I don't even look for the support. I'm independent and don't really depend on anyone. If I can't afford something, I do without it. I have a lot of anger inside," she said.

The young woman's physician recommended she get counseling to alleviate stress. She said she attended one session, which was very helpful, but the cost, $40 an hour, was prohibitive.

D. H. remarked that she has a good relationship with the father of her last child, whom she still dates, and he meets most expenses for his child very willingly.

Ms. Rutledge commented that the state's public assistance offices almost discourage fathers from supporting their children generously. According to Ms. Rutledge, the state takes the father's support check and gives each mother $124 monthly, no matter how much the father has paid.

The Auburn Deltas plan to network with various agencies identified by the summit committee to address some of these issues. The chapter also plans to hold workshops on job training and education, legal rights, physical and mental health, teenage mothers and stress and parenting at a later date. Single mothers at the summit agreed that the issues local Deltas targeted were indeed important to them.

Barbara Pitts, an Auburn Delta and a divorced mother of a 14-year-old son, said she welcomes the opportunity to be active in the chapter's future summit activities. "As a single mother who works with single mothers, I can see the necessity for Delta's efforts," said Mrs. Pitts, a supervisor in a pre-school facility.

In addition to stress and economics, Mrs. Pitts noted lack of moral support and of proper parenting skills, especially in the case of teenage mothers, as other problems confronting those rearing children alone.

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MOBILE, ALABAMA

	Total	Percent
Population	200,452	100.0
White	124,441	62.1
Black	71,909	35.9
Latino	2,265	1.1
Other Minorities	1,837	0.9
Black Single Mothers	4,179	25.0

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY
Mobile Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT
Saturday, May 19, 1984 8:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M.
Bishop State Junior College

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)
Glenco M. Hamilton
Louise Thrower

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
- Deltas
- Single Mothers and/or Fathers 41
- Workshop Leaders, Guests
TOTAL 55

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE
- Registration
- Continental Breakfast
- Overview Address
- Workshops (morning and afternoon)
- Luncheon
- Closing Remarks

WORKSHOP TOPICS
• Stress Management • Social Services • Career Guidance and Training • Job Search and Job Security • Health Care and Family Planning • Educational Opportunities • Economic Stability

AGENCIES REPRESENTED
• Alabama State Employment Service • Alabama State Department of Pensions and Security • Mobile County Public Schools • City of Prichard (Mayor's Office)

RECOMMENDATIONS
- To actively involve area black organizations in efforts to relieve the plight of black single female heads of households
- Sponsor rap sessions and skill-training seminars on money management, stress management, etc.
- Establish a referral service for black single female heads of households

Weda Harrell was one of two employment consultants who led the workshop, "Job Search and Job Security," during the summit in Mobile.

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HIGHLIGHTS from the MOBILE SUMMIT

The Mobile Alumnae Chapter hosted 55 participants for its summit Saturday, May 19 at Bishop Junior College in that city. In-coming Chapter President Violet Lowery gave the invocation to begin the opening session, a continental breakfast keynoted by Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, Delta national first vice president.

A host of informative workshops followed on stress management, social services, career guidance and training, job search and job security, health care and family planning, educational opportunites and economic stability. The roster of speakers was impressive, including John Smith, Mayor of Prichard, Alabama, who led the session on economics.

Delta Yvonne King, a divorced mother of two, served as one of two consultants for the workshop on social services. Mrs. King, supervisor of an eligibility unit for the Alabama State Department of Pensions and Security, gave information on the services offered to single mothers by that state agency.

The state offers free day care services to eligible mothers. "The average person earning minimum wage would probably be eligible for day care," said Mrs. King.

The agency also offers various counseling and other mental health services and a parenting program to teach parents how to manage, "their time, their lives and their homes," Mrs. King said.

"We can also place a homemaker in the home to work with the parent — to teach her (or him) how to cook, wash and iron, anything that will make the home run more efficiently," she continued.

Mrs. King said she plans to work on the chapter's summit committee this year and to work with mothers in home day care. "I used to license day care centers for the state before I took my current position and I found that mothers who operate home day care centers often don't know the ins and outs of the business end of running a center," she said. Mothers didn't know about taxes, how to report income or how to keep records, for instance.

"Home day care mothers can be reimbursed for a certain number of meals through a special program that is an extension of school food programs for preschoolers. But a lot of them don't take advantage of the program because they don't want to be bothered with the bookkeeping. I think the reason for this is that they don't know how to keep books. I'd like to help the mothers learn some of these skills so that they can reap greater profits from their day care operations," she remarked.

Delta Edna Rivers shared information on educational opportunities for single mothers. A guidance counselor with the Mobile County public school system, Mrs. Rivers gave details concerning the Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED), adult education courses, and apprenticeship programs.

Participants listened attentively as she discussed a variety of jobs that do not require a college degree but pay more than $20,000 a year. The list includes: air traffic controller, air line reservationist, architectural administrator, auto mechanic, computer operator, cosmetologist, dental lab technician, insurance agent, executive secretary, mail carrier, shorthand reporter, word processor, and pest control technician, among others.

"Afterwards, some of the ladies came up to me and said they were grateful to have this information because it gave them some goals to work toward," commented Mrs. Rivers.

Afternoon workshops followed lunch. Summit Coordinator Glenco Hamilton gave closing remarks at conference end.

Chapter President Lowery said participants benefitted greatly from the workshop presentations. "The young lady I invited to the summit told me, 'I've never had a workshop to be as fulfilling as this one.' The presenters and Deltas were all down-to-earth and no one was looking down on anyone else. Participants really liked the atmosphere," Lowery said.

The chapter plans to hold four more summits over the next year — one in October, one in November, another in January and a culminating event as part of May Week activities. Topics to be covered include parenting, day care home directors, job training and problems of displaced homemakers.

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

	Total	Percent
Population	177,857	100.0
White	106,041	59.6
Black	68,982	38.8
Latino	1,633	0.9
Other Minorities	1,201	0.7
Black Single Mothers	4,041	25.9

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Montgomery Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 26, 1984 9 A.M.–1:30 P.M.
Saint Jude Educational Institute

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Patricia G. Rone
Ella Bell

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	20
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	22
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	5
TOTAL	47

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Introduction
- Workshops
- Summary & Evaluation
- Lunch

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Effective Parenting • Financial Planning and Management • Coping with Stress in Day-to-Day Living

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• State of Alabama Mental Health Department • Montgomery Community Action • Catholic Social Services • Head Start

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Tutoring program at Brantwood Children's Home, three nights weekly during school year for boys and girls, ages 6-17.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To hold a summit annually
- Follow up on mothers attending 1984 summit, talk to them about their problems and refer them to appropriate agencies
- Counsel single mothers long term, if need be

HIGHLIGHTS from the MONTGOMERY SUMMIT

"The paramount theme of the Montgomery summit was someone cares for you," CoChair Patricia Rone said. "We wanted single mothers of all ages to know that we care and our sorority cares. We're all women out here struggling together. That's what Delta Sigma Theta means and what we do," she declared.

She said a primary focus of the conference was education. "Our speakers emphasized their view that education is a way out of the rut or trap a single mother may be in," Delta Rone, a kindergarten teacher said.

Single mothers were urged to bring their children and they did. Sorority members solicited high school students, children of Deltas, to work with the children in a nursery setup. "Afterwards, we had lunch for the mothers," Ms. Rone said. Although the Deltas encouraged men to attend, none attended as participants. The Deltas provided free bus service for mothers and children who needed transportation. Merchants and financial institutions gave free key chains and tablets which the Deltas made up into a kit for each attendee. The kits also contained brochures on community services and handouts from the speakers.

Joan Ford, pediatric nurse and owner of a local day care facility, discussed effective parenting. Parents, she told the group, must have a positive attitude throughout the development of their children. Discipline, she said, must teach as well as punish.

The importance of budgeting, even on a low income, was a key point of a presentation by Kenneth Mehan, finance director of the State Department of Mental Health. He suggested several methods and ways to use tax credits in 1984. Delta chapter President Jo McCall, a psychometrist or intelligence tester, said she thought sorority members could be especially helpful to single mothers on financial planning. A second theme that came through the summit proceedings to her was that "our children seem to get less encouragement and motivational push at home than they should. We should always expect an A," she said, but accept whatever grade the child's ability mandates. "We should have high expectations for black children," she added.

"The absence of stress is death," Jerry Thrasher, a professional counselor, declared in discussing stress and how to cope with it day-to-day. Everyone, he said, experiences stress at some level. He enumerated ways to better manage stress including allowing time to help one become more indifferent to the stress; train yourself in stress management, build a support group to help in times of crisis, exert your rights and develop a personal philosophy and faith. He also urged middle class persons to help alleviate stress on the poor.

Generally expressing pleasure at the material covered in the summit, single mothers indicated other topics of interest for future summits. One suggested a discussion of how single mothers should be addressed when seeking public assistance. Another wanted discussions on divorce and how to deal with teenage children. "I just think this type of program should be continued indefinitely," she said.

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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

	Total	Percent
Population	789,704	100.0
White	616,431	78.1
Black	37,123	4.7
Latino	116,736	14.8
Other Minorities	19,414	2.4
Black Single Mothers	2,109	24.6

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Phoenix Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 5, 1984 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Southminster Presbyterian Church
1929 East Broadway Road

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Cleo Moorehead
Eleanor Ragsdale

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	17
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	27
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	36
TOTAL	80

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Keynote
- Testimony by Five Single Mothers
- Workshops
- Lunch
- Open discussion

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Child Care • Financial Planning • Job Training and Sources of Income • Physical and Mental Health Services and Stress • Political Education and Involvement • Support Network Systems • The Teenage Mother

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church • Catholic Social Services • Arizona State Department of Economic Security • Memorial Family Health Center • Tempe Gynecologists • Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority • Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity • Zeta Phi Beta Sorority • Omega Psi Phi Fraternity • Nation of Islam • South Phoenix Community Mental Health Center • Arizona Women's Employment and Education Agency • Arizona State Department of Education • Haynes Psychological Services • Merrill Lynch • National Association for the Advancement of Colored People • Cyesis Center • Tots and Toddlers Day Care Learning Center • National Council of Negro Women • GenRad Corporation • Sun Valley Callers • Arizona Action for Displaced Homemakers • Arizona Public Service • Wesley United Methodist Church • Southminster Presbyterian Church • Universal Memorial Centers • Valley National Bank • First Federal Savings and Loan • First Institutional Baptist Church

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conference adopted resolution setting up The Arizona Coalition which will undertake advocacy for black single mothers in Phoenix and in the state of Arizona, coordinated and led by the Phoenix Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

- Quarterly open forums for single mothers; annual summit. Facilitate participants' attendance at all workshops instead of just two. Provide for child care. Cover less material or plan two-day summit. Monitor time more closely. Have handouts at all workshops
- Full employment, better jobs
- Statewide public health program
- Return black educators to classroom
- Ample free tutoring for black children and adults
- Latchkey programs
- Supervised recreational programs
- Twenty-four-hour child care
- Black professional role models
- Effective sex education
- Prenatal responsibility for sex education
- Establish a Delta clearinghouse for information or referral to existing service and resources for black single mothers
- Build a support network
- Educate single mothers on establishing credit, credit business, money lending skills, taxes and debt handling

HIGHLIGHTS from the PHOENIX SUMMIT

The Phoenix Summit was sparked by the presence of a national figure, Delta Dorothy I. Height, national president of the National Council on Negro Women, as Phoenix Summit II keynoter. Phoenix planners, learning she was to be in the city, arranged the time of their summit to coincide with her visit.

There are no easy answers, Ms. Height declared, to the problems black single mothers face. She called for coalition efforts and effective political action to change public policy in the interest of black single mothers.

The "real world" testimony of five single mothers, early in the day, set a tone of realism and determination for the deliberations. Some single mothers said low self-esteem and mental stress as well as the need for child care were problems they faced. Several said the cost of child care for two or three children was more than they were able to earn.

Each single mother at the conference was given a one-page document, among others, prepared by Phoenix Deltas listing all available support organizations and resources in the community. Some of the mothers told sorority members they were happy Deltas "weren't there to 'do good today' and never see us again."

On-site voter registration was a particularly popular component of the Phoenix summit and participants urged that it be repeated in any future conferences. The testimony of the five single mothers on their specific problems and needs was also a valuable component and one conferee said it should be a part of future meetings.

The Phoenix chapter distributed 1,000 brochures and wrote scores of letters to churches and community organizations in advance of the summit. In addition, many churches announced the summit at services or in their newsletters.

Delta Jerrye Champion, an efficiency expert, led a workshop on supportive network systems, explaining the difference.

"Network means to link — join together," she said. "System means the organization of parts into an effective meaningful and functional design to fulfull a defined purpose."

She said it was especially important for single mothers to learn how "to be alone without being lonely or forsaken." There are, she asserted, associations and organizations willing to help single mothers who must reach out to them.

She distributed handouts and described the following local or national organizations: Parent Support Center, Parents Without Partners, Parents Anonymous, Crisis Nursery, Toughlove for Kids.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

	Total	Percent
Population	7,477,503	100.0
White	3,953,603	53.0
Black	926,360	12.4
Latino	2,066,103	27.5
Other Minorities	531,437	7.1
Black Single Mothers	34,385	28.2

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Los Angeles Alumnae Chapter
Century City Alumnae Chapter
South Bay Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 12, 1984 8:30 A.M.–4 P.M.
Crenshaw United Methodist Church
3740 Don Felipe Drive

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Dr. Betty Smith Williams–Los Angeles
Mattye Fegan-Perry–South Bay
Wilma Pinder–Century City

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	80
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	40
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	20
TOTAL	140

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Opening Session
- Speeches, Including the Keynote
- Panel Discussion
- Workshops
- Evaluation
- Summary

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Sisterhood of Black Single Mothers • Parenting • Victimization • Child Care • Single Female/Male Relationships

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Los Angeles Branch N.A.A.C.P. • Los Angeles Branch Urban League • National Council of Negro Women • National Black Women's Voters League • El Nido Services, Inc. • Delta Sigma Theta Head Start • Locke Infant Care Center • Inspirational Ministries • Department of Health and Human Services

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

17-site, $1 million+federally funded Head Start program. More than 80 percent of parents are single mothers. Project includes nutrition and food programs.
Delta Reading Improvement Clinic (DRIC) for elementary school students.
The Los Angeles chapter is building a Life Development Center.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Summit III to be held eventually, with men also as participants
- A coalition to be formed of 90 churches currently on Delta Sigma Theta's mailing list to augment programs aimed at single parents
- Develop outreach program to enlist all Delta chapters in Los Angeles County to form social action subcommittees to pursue the plans of action of Summit III
- Los Angeles, Century City and South Bay Chapters continue to cooperate in the future

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HIGHLIGHTS from the LOS ANGELES SUMMIT

More than 240 persons registered at Los Angeles Delta's Summit II conference at the Crenshaw United Methodist Church in that city on Mother's Day 1984, May 12. The Century City, Los Angeles, and South Bay Alumnae Chapters sponsored the conference in cooperation with the Los Angeles Branch NAACP and the Los Angeles Branch Urban League.

Coordinator Mattye Fegan-Perry told the audience: "Black women's needs are no different from other single parents' needs with respect to child care centers, role models, discipline and adolescent problems."

Delta Stephanie Lee-Miller, assistant secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, was the keynote speaker.

Plenary session panelists were Patricia Nolcox, director, Locke Infant Care Center; attorney Welch Cockrell; Vera Roberts, National Black Women's Voters League; Barbara Solomon, professor, School of Social Work, U.S.C.; Helen Mendes of Mendes & Associates; and Rev. Ahman of the Inspirational Ministries.

Los Angeles Chapter President Leola Williams served as the liaison between the three coordinators and Delta's national headquarters.

After lunch and conversation in the church's social hall, participants attended one of five concurrent workshops. Each of the workshops dealt with a topic of concern to black single mothers: Sisterhood of Black Single Mothers, Parenting, Victimization, Child Care, and Single Female/Male Relationships.

Participants came together after the workshops to hear the workshop facilitators present the action plans which were developed. They were given an opportunity to fill out evaluation forms and 43 percent did so. The responses showed a high degree of satisfaction with the conference. Suggestions ranged from the need for more media coverage to the importance of focusing on male as well as female single parents, and increasing community involvement.

"Many of the issues discussed — such as personal social issues of being single," said Dr. Betty Smith Williams, summit coordinator and consultant to the Kaiser regional medical program, "crossed economic barriers. One of the speakers dealt with the promotion of personal relationships with men, personal self-worth and self-esteem, negotiating a contract in a relationship on the basis of who you are, yet recognizing all of us need companionship. Everyone there was interested."

Many of the single mothers who came were drawn from the ranks of mothers in Delta's Head Start programs. "They were quite verbal and aggressive," Dr. Williams noted. "We are concerned that others who need the information did not come. Even some of the Head Start mothers complained that they couldn't get others out. They were shy about coming to a public meeting. I think we just grazed the surface this time but we want to go on to smaller scale meetings where we can better communicate with individual women," Dr. Williams added.

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DOVER, DELAWARE

	Total	Percent
Population	23,512	100.0
White	16,127	68.6
Black	6,720	28.6
Latino	436	1.9
Other Minorities	229	1.3
Black Single Mothers	510	36.5

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Dover Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 26, 1984 8 A.M. – 3 P.M.
Delaware Technical and Community College
Terry Campus, Dennys Road

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Dr. Ruth Laws
Rita Mishoe

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	30
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	45
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	25
TOTAL	100

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee, Juice and Doughnuts
- Opening Session, with Keynote Speaker
- Hearings
- Lunch
- Resource Panel
- Buzz Sessions
- Closing Session to Devise A Plan Of Action

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Day Care • Parenting • Planned Parenthood • Child Behavior • Housing • Health Care • Health Clinic • Prenatal Care

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Delaware Senate • Delaware State College • Delaware Technical and Community College • Delaware Department of Public Instruction • University of Delaware, School of Education • Delaware Planned Parenthood • Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc., Delaware Job Training Partnership • Delaware Cooperative Extension Service • Catholic Social Services • Families in Transition • Kent County Prothonotary Association • Dover Education and Community Center • Sussex County Community Action Agency • Delmarva Rural Ministries • Milford Federal Housing

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A letter-writing campaign to State FHA headquarters about the withholding of allotted funds for housing
- Full-day health clinic for single black parents in the area in conjunction with Whatcoat Church membership
- Institute in politics and government or a yearly seminar presented by a nonprofit group to train women in the political process
- Work with the Delaware State Board of Health to develop legislation and funding to provide adequate health care for lower income persons
- Lobby the state legislature's Joint Finance Committee to urge an increased allocation to the Board of Health for maternal and child health services

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HIGHLIGHTS from the DOVER SUMMIT

Following the keynote address of Maryland District Court Judge Mabel Hubbard of Baltimore, the 100 participants at the Dover summit attended hearings on housing, prenatal care and other issues of importance to black single mothers.

"There is no better time or opportunity for single mothers to get together with representatives of the agencies which serve them to express their needs and wants, and for agencies to find out where they are lacking," said summit Program Chair Rita Mishoe. "Service providers don't know their inadequacies. Unless they're out there feeling that poverty and living with the handicaps of the single parent on a daily basis, they really don't know," she added.

About 25 persons, half agency representatives and half single mother clients, testified on strengths and weaknesses of agency services. All agreed that one of the most pressing issues facing single mothers in Kent County is the lack of affordable, well-maintained housing. Housing expert David Hill blamed the shortage on the lack of a statewide housing code which would force property and home owners to bring their housing up to standard.

"Without a housing code, many houses become dilapidated and substandard. This results in the exploitation of many renters," Hill said, adding that there are 4,000 substandard houses in Kent County where Dover is located.

Hill is a housing specialist with the National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor Research, Inc. (NCALL), a nonprofit technical assistance housing agency which receives funding from the Department of Labor under its Farm Worker Housing Program and from the Farmers Home Administration to provide technical assistance for its Self-Help Housing Program.

Hill said some developers move houses from areas of the state that have housing codes to others which do not, to avoid bringing their properties up to standard, thereby creating large slum areas.

"The problem can be corrected, though, if individuals and agencies will rally behind the Delaware Housing Coalition for passage of a statewide code," he told the crowd at the Terry Campus of Delaware Technical and Community College.

Summit General Chairperson Dr. Ruth Laws said followup on this and other legislation which will improve housing conditions and options for single parents will be a major post-summit strategy of Dover Delta alumnae. Hill noted, however, that there is sad underuse of many federal programs designed to help low-income families purchase or repair property. "In fiscal year 1983, the State of Delaware returned 23 percent of the funds allocated to it for the Section 502 Home Ownership Loan Program. Only 28.3 percent of funds allocated to the state for a Home Repair Loan Program were used," he said.

The home loan program provides subsidized loans with a one percent interest rate to low income families for purchase of existing housing or construction of new housing. The government makes up the difference between the subsidy and market interest rates. He cited the failure of federal agencies to widely market programs and the complexity of application forms as factors contributing to underuse of these special programs.

After lunch, summit participants heard equally comprehensive and informative presentations on relevant topics from a panel of resource persons. The panel presentations were followed by buzz sessions between panelists and summit participants.

Another feature of the Dover summit was an ongoing health clinic. Throughout the day, single mothers and Deltas filtered in and out of the health area, where blood pressure screenings and breast examination demonstrations were given. The clinic also featured a variety of health education materials and audio-visual aids, such as a teaching stethoscope, simulated breasts with lumps and mock lungs (normal, cancerous, and one of a person with emphysema).

"This sort of thing is really badly needed. It sensitizes mothers to the need for preventive medicine, especially those with limited income," observed Dover Delta Gwendolyn Braxton. Ms. Braxton, chairperson of the nursing department at Delaware State College, directed clinic operations.

Ms. Braxton commented that low income persons of all races tend to be oriented to "crisis" medicine. "They don't go to the doctor until something is drastically wrong. But to be able to say, 'This is what a lung looks like if you smoke and this is what a lung looks like if you don't,' that makes an impact for prevention," said Ms. Braxton.

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WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

	Total	Percent
Population	70,195	100.0
White	30,837	43.9
Black	35,444	50.5
Latino	3,424	4.9
Other Minorities	490	.7
Black Single Mothers	2,777	34.3

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Wilmington Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, June 9, 1984
Kingswood Community Center

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Janice Houser

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	11
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	25
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	5
TOTAL	41

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration
- Welcome
- Presentation on Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
- Discussion
- Evaluation

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- YMCA "Women in Crisis" Program

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Hold Phase II in early fall: workshops on housing, education, health care, employment

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HIGHLIGHTS from the WILMINGTON SUMMIT

The Wilmington Alumnae Chapter held Phase I of its Summit II program in conjunction with the chapter's annual Health Fair. The site, the Kingswood Community Center, is located in an area of public housing and private homes. The participants included women from the YMCA "Women in Crisis" program, persons attending the Health Fair and local area residents.

The sessions began informally with lunch for the participants and their children. Then, everyone visited the Health Fair for routine checks of various health problems and free literature.

The adults then took part in the Summit II conference while children enjoyed a movie, played games and received free balloons and refreshments.

The Summit II committee, said Coordinator Janice Houser, recommended that Phase II of their summit be held in the fall. The members believed the Health Fair provided a natural Phase I of the single mothers program and that a later Phase II should be held with workshops built around such topics as housing, employment, child care and recreation growing out of the expressions of interest of the mothers at the health fair.

"'All groups start out with us,'" Delta Houser, a social worker, recalled a young single mother telling her, "'and then they leave us.' We decided we would not do that — we will not do that," she added emphatically. "When other people have left them, they have no place to turn. We are trying to let them know that we will not do that," she said.

"The proposed autumn workshop conference, will be held at a good time," Ms. Houser added, "because the political candidates are coming out. It is important for them to hear what these women are saying to them and it is important for these women to feel they have some power."

After the workshop summit, she added, "We will continue to meet with single mothers regularly, at least once, possibly twice a month." After the health fair session, she added, the Deltas took the mothers and their offspring out to lunch at a McDonald's.

What came through, she said, was that the women welcomed the chance to be out with their children. "They enjoyed the day," she said, "Usually, there's nothing for them to do. They are so hungry for someone to listen."

Chapter president Doris Wilkins said Wilmington Deltas are looking forward to the second half of their summit. "At that workshop, we will discuss issues and promulgate positions we will then send to legislators. We expect to have monthly sessions with single mothers around different topics."

"Our program for single mothers will be an ongoing monthly meeting or meetings with groups of single mothers. We will be working with them to reach their individual goals," Ms. Houser said, whatever the mother's need is — housing, education, job training, job placement, money management and so on.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

	Total	Percent
Population	638,333	100.0
White	164,244	25.7
Black	445,154	69.7
Latino	17,679	2.8
Other Minorities	11,256	1.8
Black Single Mothers	26,572	4.1

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Federal City Alumnae Chapter
Washington, D.C. Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 26, 1984 8:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M.
District Building, 14th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Michele Penick

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	68
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	12
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	20
TOTAL	100

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee
- Summit II Statement
- Keynote Address
- A Perspective
- Workshops
- Closing Plenary Session

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Health • Child Care • Sexuality • Education/Employment

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Children's Defense Fund • D.C. Department of Human Services • Howard University Hospital • National Child Day Care Association • D.C. Public Schools • D.C. Commission of Public Health • Cities in Schools • Wider Opportunities for Women

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Deltas have served as counselors in shelter for battered women and children for the past two years. Federal City Chapter worked with March of Dimes to provide literature on teenage pregnancy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- D.C. Deltas undertake local adolescent pregnancy prevention and support activities through the D.C. Delta Life Development Corporation
- Establish cooperative programs with other organizations and secure commitments from private and public sectors
- Formulate and implement program activities to accomplish goals recommended by Marian Wright Edelman: Conduct an Adolescent Pregnancy Child Watch Project; plan and implement a consciousness-raising campaign; develop and implement specific programs to keep youth in school and ensure them economic opportunity; immediate outreach and advocacy efforts to ensure that girls who do become pregnant and decide to have the child receive proper prenatal care

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HIGHLIGHTS from the WASHINGTON, D.C. SUMMIT

Marian Wright Edelman's keynote address, "Children Having Children," was the highlight of Washington, D.C.'s Summit II at the District Building May 26, 1984. Michele Penick, of Delta's Washington Alumnae Chapter, was coordinator of the conference sponsored by the Washington and the Federal City Alumnae Chapters. Nearly 100 persons attended the conference including approximately 10 single mothers.

Calling the meeting to order, Delta Penick said: "We are seeking to bring about positive change in issues dealing with women and their families."

"It is critically important that the black community take leadership in this problem (children having children)," Mrs. Edelman declared. "We must make it 'uncool' to have a baby too young." Mrs. Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and a well-known advocate for children. She went on to state that 64.3 percent of black children born in 1980 were born to single mothers and 4,909 children were born to mothers between 12 and 19, according to 1982 D.C. statistics.

Audrey Rowe, Commission of Social Services, D.C. Department of Human Services, noted that in 1982, 23 percent of the women 14-19 years old, coming into the District's public welfare system for the first time had one child. Of the 2,100 girls, 13-19 years old, in foster care, 106 already had children and Ms. Rowe said several adolescent mothers displayed the poor parenting skills exhibited by "babies having babies."

"Many of the young women just didn't have a basic understanding of what it takes to raise a child. One young child had four children. She fed them orange soda for breakfast, fast food for lunch, and fast food for dinner. She had no knowledge of basic nutrition."

Workshops on health, child care, sexuality, and education/employment followed; three experts in each field served as panelists. Dr. Lorraine Gillian, a physician, told her workshop that teenage mothers often wait until after the fifth month of pregnancy before they come in for prenatal care. "They come in after they have felt the first fetal movement," she added.

Sixty percent of the participants filled out the evaluation forms praising the caliber of the speakers. They agreed that the conference had been successful and informative.

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FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

	Total	Percent
Population	153,279	100.0
White	114,127	74.5
Black	31,473	20.5
Latino	6,402	4.2
Other Minorities	1,277	.8
Black Single Mothers	6,319	25.0

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

The Broward County Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 9 A.M.–4 P.M.
Holiday Inn North
4900 North Powerline Road

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Frankie Thomas
Jasmin Shirley

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	21
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	22
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	27
TOTAL	70

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee
- Opening Session with Keynote Speaker
- Panel Discussion
- Workshops
- Optional Coffee Break
- Wrap-up

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Legal Issues and Political Implications • Psychological Impact and Emotional Stress • Job Preparation–Evaluation of Interest, Abilities, and Appropriate Job Training • Job Market–How Do We Find It?

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• South Palm Beach Alumnae • West Palm Beach Alumnae • Black Woman's Caucus • Urban League • National Organization for Women

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Adolescent Sexuality Workshops, a six-year-old program for students, male and female, aged 14-18, presenting ministers, health care and guidance counselors etc. in three sessions a year. Workshops attended by more than 300 young people annually.

Reaching Adolescent Parents (RAP), a five-year-old program for new adolescent mothers or pregnant girls to help them understand their situation and how to avoid another pregnancy. They are instructed on good health care, nutrition and what social agencies may be of service to them. Sessions held twice yearly at Delta Life Development Center, reaching at least 30 young women a year.

Postponing Adolescent Pregnancy (PAP), a program begun in 1984 for professionals — nurses, teachers, guidance counselors, etc. — working with adolescents. A one-day conference addressed by an outside expert.

Tutoring which includes cultural enrichment — taking students to plays, concerts and other cultural events — and parenting classes for young people. Life skills sessions for delinquent and pre-delinquent students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Single mothers must actively become involved in the political process, legislation, and develop network coalitions
- More job placements for single mothers
- More child care facilities that also include transportation
- More scholarships for mothers to further their education
- More workshops designed to improve employable skills

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HIGHLIGHTS from the FORT LAUDERDALE SUMMIT

A new role and responsibility for black fathers was demanded at the Fort Lauderdale summit by keynoter Na'im Akbar, a Florida State University psychologist. Dr. Akbar said the single mother's survival depends on the education of fathers to their responsibilities and new demands being made on them. He said women had allowed men to shed their responsibilities.

Families and friends of single mothers, as well as the father of her child, must provide emotional support and stability for the single mother, Dr. Akbar declared. He also called for new appreciation of the worth of the extended family, a concept which has had historic value in black life. He urged single mothers to use common sense and good judgment "to face up to and deal with the realities" of their lives.

"We must put an end to the myth 'that women are so strong,'" Dr. Akbar said, "that the total family responsibility belongs solely to them."

His assertion about the myth of "the strong black woman" was echoed by Delta Rosie Bingham of the University of Florida Community Center in the workshop she led on Psychological Impact and Emotional Stress.

"For a long time now," Dr. Bingham declared, "black women have been manipulated and brainwashed to think that 'they are emotionally more equipped to deal with the stresses of life.' This is a myth! It is about time we all realize that it takes two people, at least, to raise, cultivate and uplift the family on a full time basis."

"Single mothers must," she said, "develop networks of family, friends and community support . . . The black church, has always been the focal point of spiritual and family life and must be reestablished as a valuable support system for single mothers." She also called for more emphasis on and the reestablishment of the nuclear family: mother, father, children in one household.

The summit discussion also emphasized the problem of high unemployment among black males which lessens their ability to assume parental responsibilities.

Meredith McCleary, a vocational education curriculum supervisor and Delta Delores Baker, a state employment specialist, suggested new job opportunities for black women. Single mothers were advised to look at nontraditional jobs for women, such as plumbing, upholstering, welding, electrical work, construction and heavy equipment operation.

They were also told of state and federal programs to train women in nontraditional jobs as well as the tax credits provided to industries hiring low-income applicants. Assess your skills, the young women were told, for computer maintenance, health care, assembly line, restaurant, hotel and retail management, engineering, and trainee jobs as well as for owning your own business.

Two lawyers, B. Joy Phillips and Patricia Williams, discussed how to establish paternity, noting that a father must disprove paternity and that "paternity suits can be costly and hostile." They added that filing bankruptcy can be a viable alternative to debt. Single mothers were also told that a father's salary can be garnisheed for child support. The attorneys advised the mothers to make wills thus insuring an estranged partner will not inherit property.

Overall, they said, the legal system does not effectively address the needs of single mothers and they must become actively involved in politics and the advocacy of supportive legislation.

Delta co-coordinator Frankie Thomas, a social work supervisor, said the summit was a natural outgrowth of programs Fort Lauderdale Deltas had initiated in the past decade for single mothers.

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JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

	Total	Percent
Population	540,920	100.0
White	388,303	71.8
Black	135,842	25.1
Latino	9,775	1.8
Other Minorities	6,910	1.3
Black Single Mothers	9,131	28.0

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Edward Waters College
G. N. Collins Student Center
1658 Kings Road

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Barbara Young

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	20
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	65
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	40
TOTAL	125

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration
- Opening Session with Keynote
- Lunch
- Workshops
- Closing Plenary Session with Evaluation

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Health Services • Barriers to Economic Equity • Issues Impacting Women/Children (Abuse and Adoption)

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Family Health Services • Urban League • League of Women Voters • YMCA • Tenant Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Formation of a task force to help women apply for services provided under the Job Training Partnership Act through the private sector
- Extended Day programs in all public schools to help latch-key children
- Letters to congressmen about the lack of adequate health care for the medically indigent
- Education on birth control for teens and parental involvement in such education
- Formation of support groups for parents of sexual offenders or of children who have been sexually abused
- Increase in Title XX day care slots
- Increased communication between agencies, courts and service providers
- Seek federal funds to be locally administered for single parents with emphasis on vocational education programs, sex equity in education, and Job Training Partnership programs
- Adoption by Congress and state legislatures of measures which fund job training programs for women that provide stipends, transportation for participants and day care services for their children

Keynoter Delores Crockett, regional director of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau in Atlanta, addresses participants at the Jacksonville summit.

HIGHLIGHTS from the JACKSONVILLE SUMMIT

The economic plight of the single mother was unquestionably the common thread which ran through the day's addresses and panel discussions during the summit sponsored by the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter, said Summit Coordinator Barbara Young.

Speakers remarked about the poor record of many spouses with respect to timely payment of child support, for instance. Further, mothers who try to better their condition by pursuing higher education are financially penalized, said Ms. Young, a divorced mother of three, who works as a librarian at Florida Junior College's downtown campus.

"Poor mothers who try to go to college are often discriminated against. If a mother on welfare tries to go to school, any loan money she receives is counted as part of her income and her welfare payments are cut," Mrs. Young commented.

Mrs. Young said the plight of single mothers is also exacerbated by the fact that they often have skills appropriate only for low-paying jobs in which females are concentrated.

These and similar comments were heard from panelists addressing, "Barriers to Economic Equity." Elaine Richardson-Smith, coordinator for Florida Junior College's Challenge Program for displaced homemakers, talked about some of the barriers single mothers face and what Challenge does to help.

Florida was the fifth state in the country to adopt legislation which mandates that the state provide job entry services to displaced homemakers, she said. According to the statute, a displaced homemaker is a woman or man 35 years or older who has been dependent on another family member's income and is no longer supported by such income.

"Oftentimes the displaced homemaker's job experience is remote to today's job market. He or she has no marketable skills and may have been out of the job market for a number of years. One of the barriers for such mothers, then, is age discrimination. Let's face it — they have to compete with younger females for jobs and many employers prefer the younger women," said Mrs. Richardson-Smith.

She reiterated Mrs. Young's remarks about the financial penalties incurred by the poor mother who attempts to go back to school and suggested insensitivity of educational institutions to the needs of these mothers is a further burden to bear.

"They rarely have services that a displaced homemaker might need to continue with her education, such as day care or support groups," noted Ms. Richardson-Smith, adding that the mothers often feel out of place with the younger college students and could benefit from a support network with others like themselves.

Ms. Richardson-Smith's department reaches some 500 mothers a year providing vocational and career counseling, job placement assistance, classes on value clarification and esteem building, and personal counseling. Some mothers have been emotionally traumatized by battering or other bad circumstances and the result is often a severe lack of self-confidence and low self-esteem. Her department's services help the mothers spring back emotionally so they can perform well in class and in job pursuits, she said.

The participants also listened attentively to two other sets of panelists who addressed health services and abuse/adoption. Earlier in the day they heard keynoter Delores Crockett, regional director of the Labor Department's Women's Bureau in Atlanta.

Coordinator Mrs. Young said a coalition has been formed of the various service agencies that helped organize the summit. Local Deltas will continue networking with these agencies and others that are already in place to help meet needs of single mothers.

The chapter also hopes to get a local business or other organization to underwrite production of a media public service announcement — "something brief but catchy, that makes the point about teenage pregnancy," she said.

Keynoter Delores Crockett, regional director of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau in Atlanta, receives a key to the city from the mayor's aide, Betty Holtzendorf, during the Jacksonville summit.

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MIAMI, FLORIDA

	Total	Percent
Population	1,625,781	100.0
White	754,443	46.4
Black	269,670	16.6
Latino	580,994	35.7
Other Minorities	20,674	1.3
Black Single Mothers	15,953	25.3

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Miami Alumnae Chapter
Dade County Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 8 A.M.– 4 P.M.
Miami-Dade Community College, North Campus
11380 Northwest 27th Avenue

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Pernella Burke
Rosa L. Jones

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	93
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	87
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	28
TOTAL	208

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Breakfast
- Opening Session
- Workshops
- Luncheon
- Closing Session

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Education and Job Training • Family and Marital Status • Physical and Mental Health • Support Service Systems • Teenage Pregnancy

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Florida State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services • Dade County Commissioner • Cope Centers (North and South) • Greater Miami Urban League • YMCA of Greater Miami • Dade County Public School Board • Broward County Health Department • James E. Scott Community Association • Miami-Dade Community College • Florida International University • Barry University • Center for Family and Child Enrichment

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Working with Family Health Center Teenage Unit counseling

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support legislative incentives for poor single heads of households
- Utilize existing job training programs more effectively
- Upgrade job training programs which are already in place
- Develop a parental training program for males and females who are expecting children
- Write letters to the governor urging him to sign Hospital Cost Containment Bill-HB506
- Provide day care on a sliding fee scale in a building donated by sorority
- Develop coalition of all the groups which address the problem of teenage pregnancy
- Advocate a "LAMP Program" to provide day care for children of mothers who wish to return to school

A mother and son relax during the Miami summit, "Black Single Mothers: The Myth vs. the Reality."

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HIGHLIGHTS from the MIAMI SUMMIT

"The most frightening thing about the vicious cycle of single motherhood is to think that these [children] are our resources. If we're in a situation where nearly half of all black households are headed by women, what's going to happen to us as a people in the future?"

The question came from Sylvia Coats, one of an impressive array of experts enlisted to share information at the summit sponsored by the Dade County and Miami Alumnae Chapters on Saturday, May 19 at Miami-Dade Community College, North Campus.

Mrs. Coats, associate director of Jackson Memorial Hospital's psychiatric social work department, said she didn't realize the proportions of the problem until the Delta invitation to appear on the panel spurred her to research the situation in Dade County. About 43 percent of black families are headed by females there. This compares with only 20 percent for Hispanics, she said.

Mrs. Coats talked about the difficulties for low-income single mothers who attempt to break the cycle of children having children.

"Once the single mother who attempts to go back to school gets grants or scholarships to finance her education, her welfare allocation is cut. These mothers are almost discouraged from getting an education," Mrs. Coats said.

"The (single motherhood) cycle is almost like slavery revisited. But it's worse because we as a people don't see it as such," she added. Mrs. Coats remarked that families on public assistance end up in slavery either to welfare or to low-income occupations and can only get out of the situation by the chance meeting of "the right person at the right time" to expand their educational and career opportunities.

A panelist on the issue of mental health, Mrs. Coats said such circumstances often lead to frustration, depression and even suicide for some mothers, and to frustration for the children who then continue the cycle of single parenting. Mrs. Coats could not give a figure for the number of single mothers she counsels each month but said as an indication that, up until a major decentralization of public health care five years ago, the large metropolitan hospital for which she works handled an average 1,400 mostly medically indigent patients a month in the emergency room, 50 percent of whom were black.

Mrs. Coats called on the national legislature and professionals in the helping/health care fields to be more sensitive and aware of the plight of single mothers and to take appropriate action. "The problem is not just that of single mothers. It impacts on society as a whole," she commented. She also urged that attention be paid males who father children so that they might become more responsible.

The opening session and morning workshops, attended by more than 200 persons, were followed by a lively luncheon for which Delta national official Lynnette Taylor served as keynoter. Mrs. Taylor is chairperson of Projects/Program Planning and Development. The luncheon, which also featured special music, presentations and acknowledgements, was followed by the closing session.

Summit Cochair Pernella Burke of the Dade County Alumnae Chapter said the group hopes to become involved with area Cope Centers, schools for pregnant girls operated by the Dade County school system. For the past year, the Miami chapter has been involved in a big sister program with the Adolescent Pregnancy Project of the Family Health Center, another area program for pregnant teenage girls. Miami Deltas will continue working with the center next year, she said.

Representatives of both chapters also plan to network with other existing groups which focus on the problems of teenage mothers, such as the Urban League's Task Force on Teenage Pregnancy. Additionally, a task force made up of representatives from both chapters will meet periodically to determine strategies.

Delta Barbara Caery, Metro-Dade County Commissioner, presents Lynnette Taylor with a proclamation from the County Mayor during the Miami summit. Taylor is national chair of Delta's Projects/Program Planning and Development Committee.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

	Total	Percent
Population	128,291	100.0
White	37,952	29.6
Black	83,767	65.3
Latino	5,024	3.9
Other Minorities	1,548	1.2
Black Single Mothers	2,759	32.6

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Orlando Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, June 2, 1984 12:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M.
Catalina Elementary School

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Yvette R. Harris

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	14
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	22
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	13
TOTAL	49

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Punch and Cake
- Nine Half-hour Workshops

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Education and Job Training • Physical and Mental Health Services • Victimization • Women and Housing • Child Care • Parenting • Birth Control • Political Education • Financial Planning

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Valencia Community College • City of Orlando • Office of Community Development and Housing Assistance • Orlando Police Department • Every Person's Own Choice (EPOC) • Florida Association of Black Nurses • Southwest Community Mental Health Center • 4-C Child Care • Private Industry Council • Seminole County Health Department • Central Florida's Urban Bankers Association

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Network with existing agencies that serve black single mothers
- Work closely on an ongoing basis with SMILES (Single Mothers in a Learning Environment), a skill development program for single mothers in Winter Park
- Establish a communications network with summit participants

Jesse J. Allen, manager of the Orlando Office of Community Development and Housing Assistance, informs single mothers of their housing rights and discusses eligibility for public housing during a workshop at the Orlando summit.

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HIGHLIGHTS from the ORLANDO SUMMIT

The consensus of the 50 participants at Delta's Orlando summit, Saturday, June 2, 1984 at the Catalina Elementary School, was that such a conference was long overdue. The participants expressed concern that the black community does not give moral and economic support to single mothers, but praised the informative presentations which highlighted various agencies and programs that assist black single mothers.

For instance, presenters from Valencia Community College and the Private Industry Council described available educational and job training programs in the community. Other presenters discussed existing area mental and physical health facilities and provided information on nutrition, diet, and exercise.

Delta Mamie Jones, a verbal therapy leader working with teens at Orlando's Southwest Community Mental Health Center, emphasized the importance of emotional maturity for those considering motherhood in the workshop on physical and mental health.

"It is very important that women, no matter what their ages, be ready emotionally for motherhood. Young mothers, for instance, have no idea what it is to give up their freedom — freedom to participate in activities and to attend some school functions. Some activities have to be curtailed as they take on the responsibilities of motherhood," said Ms. Jones, who supervises a staff of four counselors.

Ms. Jones, whose agency serves about 950 persons each year, talked about the importance of maintaining good physicial health during pregnancy to avoid congenital birth defects and about health hazards. One hazard is the lack of prenatal care in the early stages of pregnancy, said Jones. Some girls don't receive such care because their parents aren't aware that they are pregnant or they can't afford the care, she commented. Another hazard to health is home abortions.

"Some think, 'I can save myself a lot of money if I do it myself.' The girl might use a coat hanger, not realizing the dangers she poses to her own health by such methods," Ms. Jones remarked.

In a session on parenting, another staffer from Southwest Community Mental Health Center addressed the single parent's need for self-esteem and laid out strategies for forming networks and support groups. Single mothers also learned of child care facilities in the area from a staffer of 4-C Child Care Center and were informed of their housing rights, existing housing laws, and access to public housing by staffers of the Office of Community Development and Housing Assistance. A representative of the Central Florida Urban Bankers Association shared invaluable information on money management, planning, and setting budget priorities.

Participants also received information on birth control, city government operations and political involvement, and self-protection and crime prevention. Machelle Clayton, a recruitment coordinator for the Orlando Police Department, focused on rape in her workshop on crime prevention.

"Rape victims can be of any age, race or sex. And the person you least expect could be an assailant, like the guy you work with five days a week who decides to give you a ride home one evening," said Mrs. Clayton, who has worked as a police officer in Orlando for the last four and a half years. The Florida A&M University graduate and divorced mother of one worked for the Tallahassee Police Department before joining the Orlando force.

Mrs. Clayton suggested a variety of measures to help ward off sexual assault. The list includes: investing in dead-bolt or other secure locks, lighting at entrance points outside the home, not listing one's first name on the mail box or with directory assistance (to avoid the extra cost of having an unpublished number, a false name could be listed with directory assistance and friends and relatives alerted to the alias), changing all locks and getting new keys when moving into a new apartment or house.

Orlando Alumnae President Hattie Wright Mitchell pledged that Orlando Deltas would continue working with agencies that serve single mothers and would act as a mediator between such agencies and conference participants. The chapter also hopes to work closely with SMILES (Single Mothers in a Learning Environment), an organization of mothers from Apoka, Florida which promotes skill development for single mothers. The SMILES office is located in Winter Park, Florida.

Ms. Mitchell said the Apoka mothers asked Orlando Deltas to sponsor a summit in their city. The chapter's local projects committee has included the Apoka conference in its long-range plans for this coming year. Local Deltas also hope to serve single mothers in the chapter's ongoing tutorial program and to give moral support and advice to individual mothers by serving as big sisters and role models, said Mitchell.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

	Total	Percent
Population	425,022	100.0
White	135,396	31.9
Black	280,435	66.0
Latino	5,842	1.4
Other Minorities	3,349	1.0
Black Single Mothers	20,803	31.4

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Atlanta Alumnae Chapter
Decatur Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 5, 1984 10:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
Georgia Avenue Hill Street Neighborhood Facility
250 Georgia Avenue, S.W. Room 316

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Jacqueline Hall

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	20
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	
TOTAL	150

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

A two-hour panel on parenting from four different perspectives. Consultants were an educator, an academician, a psychiatric nurse, a health center official.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Growing up in Society • Role Models • Problems of Adolescence • Health Care

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Southern Christian Leadership Conference • Emory University • Grady Memorial Hospital • Atlanta Southside Health Center
Additionally, some 43 governmental, public and private agencies were represented by the summit's 150 participants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conducting public hearings for black single mothers to ascertain their needs
- Networking with various agencies and community organizations identified in this initial conference to meet the needs of black single mothers
- Involve other area alumnae and undergraduate chapters.

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Along with 20 other public and private organizations, Delta operates a Community Life Development Center in Atlanta, which is housed in the Georgia Avenue facility.

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HIGHLIGHTS from the ATLANTA SUMMIT

Representatives of more than 40 organizations met at the Georgia Avenue Hill Street Neighborhood Facility on Atlanta's southwest side Saturday, May 5, to begin discussions around problems of the black single mother.

"I think our approach was unique among summits of the southern region, in that our thrust was to reach agency persons primarily and to begin with them, then reach single mothers at a later stage," said Atlanta Alumnae President Rubye H. Howard. Her chapter jointly sponsored the summit with Deltas of the Decatur Alumnae Chapter.

Mrs. Howard, an elementary school teacher, said the Summit II committee will meet in the fall to further formulate plans for networking with the organizations identified at the summit. "We want to develop something ongoing, and not end with just a one-shot deal," she said.

Atlanta Deltas would like to offer workshops and seminars on proper nutrition and care of babies, she remarked, adding that their focus to date has been on younger, unmarried single mothers as opposed to single mothers who are alone because they are divorced, separated or widowed.

"We also hope to offer workshops, as well as individual counseling, for those mothers who are a little older and working, but who have trouble budgeting their money," continued Mrs. Howard, who is a divorced mother of three adult children herself.

Plans for the fall also include conducting public hearings for black single mothers to ascertain their needs and work with legislators to encourage development and passage of appropriate measures.

One of the summit participants, former State Representative Hosea Williams, a candidate for Congress, urged the group to back his proposal in the legislature to allow fathers to remain in the homes of mothers on public assistance.

The Atlanta summit also featured a lively panel on the issue of parenting from four different perspectives. Dr. Margaret Beale Spencer, an associate professor of educational studies at Atlanta's Emory University, discussed role models.

Discussing the psychology of why black teens get pregnant, she concluded that they are trying to satisfy some other needs in their lives.

"The presentation gave us a different look at why young girls keep coming up pregnant," Mrs. Howard said. Dr. Spencer believes young girls frequently seek relationships with boys because they need a male role model, often missing in the home. "Adolescents need safe models, someone able and stable enough to provide the feedback they need on their changing selves," said Dr. Spencer.

"For instance, a father or uncle can say, 'I like that length dress on you' or 'I don't like you when you act whiney like that.' When this sort of support and counsel is not there, girls go to boys their own age but it's not safe to try out their new adult roles and selves with them. Often, the result is calamitous," said Dr. Spencer, a married mother of two teenage girls and a nine-year-old son.

Doris Buster, chair of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Educational Task Force and a public school teacher, said teachers also must compensate for many things teens don't get at home. Dr. Spencer told the conference that young people face many complex issues about the world and the self during the teen years and often feel a great deal of alienation from adults.

"Sometimes we leave kids out there to solve these very heavy issues all by themselves. Then they seek out each other and mix up sexuality with intimacy. When the family meets those intimacy needs by helping the child work through the issues, he or she fares better," she said. Dr. Spencer also talked about the black self concept and the need for building esteem.

A study by psychologist Kenneth Clark in the late 1930s on identity formation showed that black children do not value the color black positively. Dr. Spencer, a developmental psychologist, said her follow-up research in this area shows "things haven't changed much. If children are shown pictures of black and white people, they still prefer the white photos. Unmistakably, the color black is still not valued," she said.

Dr. Spencer blames much of the dilemma of American teens on a "media sexplosion" but also spreads the blame to other areas.

"The responsibility for the predicament of our teens cuts across fields. It has to do with business, which pushes adult clothing on our teens before they are adults. It has to do with the church, which isn't instilling proper moral values and teaching as it should, and with educators as well.

"It's time we as parents get real angry. It's time we take charge again and stop turning our chidlren over to the media's sex hype. We need to put pressure on our businesses to supply youthful clothing for our children, and pressure on clergy and educators as well," she said.

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COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

	Total	Percent
Population	169,441	100.0
White	106,055	62.6
Black	57,362	33.8
Latino	3,521	2.1
Other Minorities	2,503	1.5
Black Single Mothers	3,533	25.0

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY
Columbus Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT
May 26, 1984 8:15 A.M.–3:30 P.M.
First African Baptist Church

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)
Bennie Newroth

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	50
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	20
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	24
TOTAL	94

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE
- Registration/Coffee and Doughnuts
- Opening Session, with Keynote Speaker
- Workshops
- Lunch and Fashion Show
- Closing Session

WORKSHOP TOPICS
• Job Entry • Support Systems • Health • Education/Finance

AGENCIES REPRESENTED
• Links • Omega Psi Phi Fraternity • National Council of Negro Women • ABWA Sojourner • Georgia State University • Les Anges • Zeta Phi Beta Sorority • Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority • Negro Business and Professional Women

RECOMMENDATIONS
• A women's conference for early 1985

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HIGHLIGHTS from the COLUMBUS SUMMIT

Keynoter Dr. Patricia Johnson encouraged the nearly 100 participants at the Columbus, Georgia summit to embrace Delta Mary McLeod Bethune's philosophy, "lifting as we climb."

"When we grew up, we had the influence of professionals. Everybody went to the same church, the same beauty parlor. Now we are all separated. The blacks who have 'made it' never even see poor people anymore," Dr. Johnson said. She challenged black professionals to reach back and pull someone else up.

Black professionals serving as presenters and moderators at the summit did just that by sharing crucial information on a variety of topics that day and by serving individually as mentors after the summit, said summit coordinator Bennie Newroth.

"We've helped with very specific requests since our May event. Three mothers have returned to college or training school since the conference as a result of counseling and other help from chapter sorors," said Mrs. Newroth, director of the social work department at the Medical Center of Columbus.

The summit also helped the chapter expand its contacts with community agencies which serve single mothers. A contact with one agency resulted in expansion of the chapter's prison work to include work in area female prisons, Newroth remarked.

"It never occurred to us that these women often don't have a decent dress to wear for court dates. They sometimes have to use each other's underwear. Since Open Door Community Center made us aware of the need, Deltas have been collecting clothing and underwear to take to the female prisons," she said.

Yvonne King, a student services counselor at nearby Chattahoochee Valley State Community College in Phenix City, Alabama, dispensed numerous helpful tips for job seekers. These included do's and don't's for finding openings, filling out applications, appearance, and demeanor during an interview and much more.

In addition to newspaper want ads, state employment offices and temporary agencies, Ms. King suggested job seekers check the local Urban League. Most Urban League offices have an employment bank of some sort, she said.

Ms. King emphasized the importance of filling out an application properly and completely. "The application presents the person to a prospective employer before the interview and can be very important. So be sure to complete the entire application — don't leave anything blank unless it does not apply to you," Ms. King said. An applicant who leaves blank the space for a birthdate, for instance, may signal negligence to an employer. Blank sections can also signal lack of comprehension, equally undesirable to an employer, she noted.

Ms. King advised applicants to include volunteer work on applications. "Many times a lot of very important work experience is not included because the person felt since he or she wasn't paid for it, it shouldn't be included. But it should," she said.

Ms. King stressed that it is important to have a good appearance but the applicant's "emotional appearance" and demeanor are just as crucial as appropriate clothing and makeup. "Know what sort of person is required for the job and go in with the appropriate demeanor. If the job calls for a bubbly person, you don't want to go in and present a Sad Sack personality to the interviewer," she said.

Summit participants also listened closely to Lorendis Morgan, director of in-service training for West Central Georgia Regional Hospital, a short-term state psychiatric facility, as she shared information on internal and external support systems. She emphasized the importance of a positive self-image. "When you're feeling good about yourself, other opportunities will come to you," said the divorced mother of two.

"Nobody can improve your self-image but you. Participation in fitness programs at no cost, changing your makeup or hairstyle and reading that reinforces positive images of the black female are all ways to enhance your self-concept," she continued, adding that persons with a strong religious base often have positive self-concepts.

In addition to the practical workshops, the Columbus summit featured a luncheon fashion show, free babysitting and grants to cover the $5 registration fee for some single mothers.

Coordinator Newroth said the day not only helped the community's single mothers but Delta single mothers as well. Deltas there established a "sister-to-sister program" to serve as a support group. Married mothers can also participate in the group sessions and discussions, according to Mrs. Newroth, a married mother of three, who plans to be a part of the group herself.

"A lot of married women need to join such a group so they can get out of the 'supermom' syndrome, of feeling they are inadequate if they can't do everything themselves. Hopefully, those in the group will begin to call on each other to babysit, for instance. This will alleviate some stress and allow them time for themselves," she said.

Contacts generated through the summit also resulted in the chapter working cooperatively with Springer Opera House to bring "A Soldier's Play" to Columbus in the fall. Single mothers will be special guests at the performance. Columbus Deltas bring a major play to Columbus at least once each year to help enhance the city's cultural life, said Mrs. Newroth.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

	Total	Percent
Population	3,005,072	100.0
White	1,299,557	43.3
Black	1,187,905	39.5
Latino	422,063	14.1
Other Minorities	95,547	3.2
Black Single Mothers	85,628	32.0

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Chicago Area Alumnae

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, June 2, 1984 8 A.M.–4 P.M.
Stuart Hall/Illinois Institute of Technology
10 West 31st Street

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Bernice Cooper-Turner
Dr. Effie O. Ellis

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	75
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	100
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	100
TOTAL	275

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration
- Opening Session with Keynote Speaker
- Panel of Single Parents Speaking from Different Perspectives (divorced, widowed, teen parents, and a single parent by choice)
- Workshops
- Lunch
- Workshops
- Wrap-up Address

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Health • Education, Job Training, and Employment • Legal Implications and Resolutions • Social Work Support Collaboration

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• American Cancer Society • Chicago Board of Education • Chicago Department of Human Services • Chicago Department of Mental Health • Chicago Municipal Bond Financing • Circuit Court of Cook County • Illinois Department of Developmental Disability • Illinois Department of Public Aid • Gary Community Mental Health Center • Legal Aid Foundation • Libertyville Hospital • Loyola University School of Social Work • University of Illinois Hospitals • U.S. Department of Labor

Cochair Bernice Cooper-Turner (right) takes time out with participants during the Chicago summit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Self-image of the black single mother — how can she begin to see herself as viable, with something important to contribute to society, rather than as a down-and-outer
- Getting fathers more involved in parenting
- Development of a list of physicians and social workers who would be willing to assist single parents at discounted rates
- Lobbying for better day care — before school, after school, and lunch-time care facilities for children
- Development and circulation of social service directories geared toward the black single parent
- Development of support systems in the community for black single parents
- Development of health fairs at which black physicians will provide free screenings and other services to families in need
- Need for information on individual medical practices as an alternative to Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)
- Helping single parents cope with children and their own mental health needs
- The black single mother rearing the male child

HIGHLIGHTS from the CHICAGO SUMMIT

Six Chicago area chapters were hosts to some 375 persons on the Illinois Institute of Technology campus Saturday, June 2, 1984 for, "Single Parenting: Teens and Beyond." Chapters represented were Chicago, Evanston/North Shore, Joliet, Gary, Glen Ellyn, and Waukegan.

Participants listened attentively as keynoter Lenora T. Cartright challenged the Deltas to pressure legislatures to implement statutes with "teeth in them" to insure fathers provide financial support for their children and thus contribute to the defeminization of poverty.

"It has been said that when a man and a woman divorce, the man becomes single and the woman becomes a single parent. That's quite a sardonic touch of humor to a very unfunny state of affairs," said Dr. Cartright, a Delta, former commissioner of the Chicago Department of Human Services and professor at the University of Illinois.

"Too often women are forced into poverty by the social irresponsibility of a legally responsible man. The flexibility and opportunity to develop a means of self-sufficiency above the poverty level that would be afforded these women given the financial support they are legally entitled to, would positively result in the defeminization of poverty," she said.

Later in the day, Chicago television personality Edwin C. "Bill" Berry praised Delta for being a "catalytic agent" in setting up support programs for black single mothers around the country.

Berry, who works with the Johnson Products Foundation in addition to hosting his own talk show on WGN-TV, stated he had been alarmed a few years ago when the famed Moynihan report proclaimed the breakdown of the black family, and that 25 percent of black families were fatherless.

Currently, about 75 percent of black families are fatherless, Berry said. He applauded Delta's vision and commitment in the area of black family life and said he hoped Deltas will spearhead development of needed programs around the country to contribute to the upward mobility of black single parent families.

A Johnson Foundation grant made the Chicago summit possible.

Chicago Summit Cochair Effie O. Ellis, M.D., said Deltas plan to do just what Berry suggested.

"I think we've made a tremendous step forward (with the summit)," she commented. "Deltas will now seek to establish a council of civic and other organizations which will give highest priority to establishing better communication between groups which can assist single mothers. We'll also seek to improve communication with those we hope to serve," she said.

Dr. Ellis added that many times persons who need supportive services don't trust support-service providers, hence there is a need to improve communication on that front. Communication with other sororities, for instance, can be improved by eliminating "turf mentality," she commented.

Dr. Ellis is a health consultant for the Chicago Department of Human Services, the National Foundation of the March of Dimes and the American Medical Association.

"Deltas in the Chicago area are working toward a comprehensive program to help single mothers, from teenage throughout the entire life span," said summit Cochair Bernice Cooper-Turner, who works for Chicago's Department of Human Services.

The certified social worker said she is to write a proposal for a shelter for teenage mothers in the near future for Delta's Chicago Alumnae Chapter.

The title of the Chicago summit hints at one of its unique features — focus on the single parent, as opposed to the single mother, indicating the planners' sensitivity to unmarried fathers, especially single male parents.

Turner stated that the Chicago committee was very careful to include a single male parent in the morning panel discussion.

Moderated by black radio news director Donald Palmer of WBMX Radio, the panel included a single parent by choice, a divorced parent, a teenage mother, and a widowed male parent.

Robert Smith, a health educator for the American Cancer Society, told the audience that persons from both his family and his wife's family had formed a vital support system since his wife's death a few years ago.

Although both sets of grandparents wanted to rear Smith's now seven-year-old son, Smith said he wanted to care for the child himself. Black fathers have a very definite role to play and they should not have to be forced to support their children, he said.

Smith's remarks about the family as a key support system to the single parent were echoed by the other panelists. Kathryn Peoples-Robinson, a divorced mother of four, said she went to her parents after the split with her husband to ask for help to supplement her meager public assistance income.

During the lunch period, called "Delta's Floating Fantasy," knowledgeable local Deltas "floated" through the workshop rooms to respond to questions about single parenthood. Summit participants remained in the same room to which they were assigned at the day's beginning, while workshop presenters and the Deltas who took questions at lunch, rotated throughout the day.

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EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

	Total	Percent
Population	55,200	100.0
White	2,261	4.1
Black	52,314	94.8
Latino	518	0.9
Other Minorities	107	0.2
Black Single Mothers	4,441	38.0

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

East St. Louis Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 8:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M.
Southern Mission Church
2900 State Street

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Darlene Roy
Mary C. Bobbitt
Mary Rhodes

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	20
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	7
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	13
TOTAL	40

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Opening Remarks
- Resource Panel
- Workshops
- Lunch
- Closing Session

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Legal Rights • Community Development • Building Self-Esteem • Stress and Its Relationship to Single Parenting

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Parents Plus "Ounce of Prevention Fund" • United Methodist Church • Board of Christian Education • St. Clair City Comprehensive Mental Health Center • Women Lawyers Association of Metro-East

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide a mechanism to disseminate information on legal rights of divorced single parents
- Create an extended or surrogate family for the widowed parent through outside activities
- Inform young people in the areas of finances, social services, adoption, peer pressure and responsibility of fathers

Dr. Vera Williams leads a workshop on Image Building during the May 19 East St. Louis summit.

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HIGHLIGHTS from the EAST ST. LOUIS SUMMIT

"We come together to formulate programs and strategies, to increase commitment and to strengthen our forces in combatting problems and policies both sexist and racist . . . Summit II is a call to action rather than a philosophical examination of the issues," declared Delta Alumnae Chapter President Bessie Peabody as she opened the East St. Louis summit.

Social worker Portia Kennel told of the Parents Plus "Ounce of Prevention Fund," a new agency to East St. Louis, which works out of the local YWCA and the Comprehensive Mental Health Center. It seeks out pregnant teenagers 13-19 years of age, offering them counseling and other kinds of services. The agency also encourages teenage mothers and fathers to set up a support group.

Delta Darlene Roy, the Summit II chair, and the public aid representative to the Governor's initiative — Parents Too Soon, said she and others are developing a program targeted toward at-risk teenagers. Their hope is to work through the public schools to reach these teenagers and to have a program operative this fall.

"I have worked with the church and we all know that the church is the one institution that has nurtured and supported us through many problems," said Liz Short, a single mother, a community developer for the United Methodist Church and local YWCA president. "Those of us with jobs must help our sisters without jobs," she declared.

Delta Vera Williams had a different view of organized religion. "The church has not done its part. It has been one of the cruelest institutions we have for affecting single unwed mothers and divorcees. They want to set you aside," Dr. Williams, dean of the Board of Christian Education, declared. She was a member of the Consortium of the Kettering Foundation which conducted a study of parents.

She pointed to the Sisterhood of Black Single Mothers, Inc., of Brooklyn, N.Y., as a self-help organization made up of "black women raising children alone. The organization encourages a positive self-image for single mothers." She added that the organization sets up lines of communication with employers, teachers, and professionals who have a direct influence on the lives of the individual single mothers.

"Information and referrals are available in the areas of housing, training, jobs and education. The single parent inventory helps one to recognize her strengths and weaknesses, to set goals, to know you will have difficulties and to know you will overcome them, to leave saying, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,'" Dr. Williams concluded. Married with adult children, Dr. Williams was once a single mother.

"Smile," Dr. Lena Weathers, director of program development and evaluation of the Comprehensive Mental Health Center of St. Clair County, urged the summit participants. "If you force positive behavior eventually it becomes a part of you. Solve your own problems, give yourself all the respect and admiration you give others. Be assertive."

Stress, she added, occurs when problems are not resolved and a single mother's problems may be many times greater than the average parent's. "We do not resolve our problems by holding onto them, creating feelings of hopelessness . . . especially when we do not like solution. In order to reduce problem-oriented stress, we must take control of the problem. The person in control is the person with the power,"Dr. Weathers declared. There are many situations we cannot control, she added, but we can take control on a personal level by "reducing the problem to our level."

"Because we are accustomed to other people being in control of our lives, we take our problems to mother, boyfriend or girlfriend or some other person. When we don't like the solutions they offer, we hang onto the problem and compound our feelings of hopelessness and helplessness . . . When we allow another to solve our problems, our admiration for that person grows while our own image as a helpless individual increases," she said.

'What am I going to do about it?' First determine whether you have a problem. Does it affect you? If it does not, then you do not have a problem. Thus you reduce and eliminate stress. Ultimate resolution of a problem must be our own so that the natural flow of admiration that goes to others who are in control will come to ourselves. We must control our own lives in ways that foster admiration, respect and positive self-image," Dr. Weathers said.

Dr. Weathers noted that problems pertaining to children create more stress because "Our control is limited and the question becomes not, 'What am I going to do about it?,' but 'What can I help my child do about it?'"

Attorney Annette Ackert, president, Women Lawyers Association of Metro-East, praised the concept of women's organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta getting together to work on women's problems. She said her organization was working with the YWCA and a Belleville area college to inform area women of a new Illinois law, effective January 1984, regarding child support. The law strengthens the rights of mothers seeking child support. She said single mothers with that problem should seek legal advice from a number of local agencies.

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NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

	Total	Percent
Population	557,515	100.0
White	222,694	39.9
Black	304,673	54.8
Latino	19,226	3.5
Other Minorities	8,922	1.6
Black Single Mothers	21,003	29.4

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

New Orleans Alumnae Chapter
New Orleans Suburban Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, June 2, 1984 8 A.M.–1 P.M.
Dent Hall
Dillard University
2601 Gentilly Boulevard

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Annie Alexander Harvey
Mackie Harper Norris

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	41
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	12
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	24
TOTAL	77

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration
- General Session
- Workshops
- Luncheon Session, with Evaluation and Action Plans

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Educational/Employment Awareness • Housing • Victimization • Physical/Mental Health • Child Care • Support Network/Finance Management • Political Awareness/Education

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Orleans Parish School Board • Total Community Action/Head Start Program • Housing Authority of New Orleans • Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources • Harris Law Corporation • District Court System

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Counseling for dropouts of the education system
- Developing coalition of organizations, boards, agencies and businesses to make available information on training and employment opportunities for those still enrolled in high school
- Single heads of households and low income families should have more low cost housing available to them
- Delta Sigma Theta should become more involved in financing housing
- To reduce victimization of single mothers, local and state lawmakers should become aware of their needs.
- Create coalition of churches, community and social organizations to educate the public on victimization.
- Provide housing on university campuses for single parents
- Provide emergency housing for single parents and children
- Rap sessions should be part of the school program to help insure mental and physical health
- The Louisiana state welfare task force should be contacted and told that welfare benefits are not sufficient for the need
- Organize voter registration drives

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HIGHLIGHTS from the NEW ORLEANS SUMMIT

New Orleans and New Orleans Suburban Alumnae Chapters hosted 77 persons at Dillard University on Saturday, June 2 for their summit on problems of the black single mother.

Immediate past Southwest Regional Director Gloria Bryant Banks of New Orleans set the tone for the day's undertaking, outlining objectives for the event. After some direction from Summit Cochair Annie Alexander Harvey of the suburban alumnae chapter, participants attended informative workshops led by a variety of experts, including a judge, a housing specialist, and others.

Attorney Brenda Brown, an associate with Harris Law Corporation, led the workshop on victimization, addressing a variety of issues related to women as victims and perpetrators of crime.

Ms. Brown, former assistant district attorney, said she did not believe the issue of wife battering is taken as seriously as it should be. But Ms. Brown suggested women bring this indifference on themselves in some ways.

"If a woman is battered, legally it is considered an assault or battery. She can bring in the police and file a report.

"But many times women will decide not to press charges and to go back to their husband or boyfriend. This leaves the (judicial) system with a jaded view of these women, since they trigger the legal system, but don't follow through and prosecute," remarked Ms. Brown. She added that this situation creates a real sense of frustration on the part of law officers handling battered women's cases.

"The other unfortunate thing is that you know that many of these women who return to their spouses or mates will be maimed severely or maybe even killed," she said, adding that as an assistant district attorney she referred women to shelters and other agencies where they could get help. "We need to educate women so that they do not allow themselves to be abused," she added.

In terms of other crimes against women, Attorney Brown said she thinks the New Orleans police department is becoming more sensitive in dealing with rape victims.

"Before, a woman who was raped had to go to the coroner's office next to the morgue for an examination, which wasn't particularly encouraging. Now a woman can go to a hospital or her own doctor and have the report be accepted for the official police report," she commented.

Ms. Brown said the police department is also doing more to insure the privacy of rape victims. "Police used to interview rape victims at a desk out in the open (at the station). But I think this sort of information should be shared behind closed doors. The department now has a very sensitive rape screener who interviews victims privately," she said.

Annie Harvey said New Orleans Deltas have already forged ahead on the issue of welfare reform as a result of contacts made during the summit. Harvey was asked to represent Delta on the selection committee for a new Governor's Task Force on Welfare Reform. The New Orleans alumnae chapters have also created a mail network to keep abreast of developments in housing, social services and other areas. In turn, Deltas will provide periodic updates of their activities to relevant agencies.

"Since the summit, we've received calls from many organizations that did not participate that day but heard about the summit from others that did. They want to participate in the next summit," she stated.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

	Total	Percent
Population	786,775	100.0
White	341,6[illegible]	43.4
Black	428,279	54.4
Latino	7,638	1.0
Other Minorities	9,159	1.2
Black Single Mothers	29,831	30.6

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Baltimore Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Wednesday, June 6, 1984 8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.
Morgan State University
Jenkins Building

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Ellen Dolvey-Howard, General Coordinator
Sandra Baxter, Co-Coordinator
Carolyn Boston, Co-Coordinator

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Sorors	60
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	200
• Workshop Leaders, Guests (figure includes 21 children)	152
TOTAL	412

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee and Doughnuts
- General Sessions I and II, Both Featuring Panel Presentations, and General Session III (wrap-up)
- Workshops
- Door Prize Segment (for single mothers only)
- Post Summit Reaction Session (for committee members only)

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Legislation and Education • Economics Management • Parenting, Self-Esteem, Stress and Child Abuse • Teenage Pregnancy/Female Sexuality

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Baltimore City Public Schools • Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History • Morgan State University • Office of the Governor, State of Maryland • Office of the Mayor, Baltimore City • Maryland House of Delegates • District of Columbia Office of Human Rights • Sisterhood of Black Single Mothers, New York, New York • Baltimore Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting, Pregnancy Prevention • Commission of Public Health, Washington, D.C. • Girl Scouts Council of Central Maryland • Maryland Educational Opportunity Center • Baltimore City Council • Baltimore City Department of Social Services

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

The Laurence Paquin Junior-Senior High School (for pregnant girls) was begun 21 years ago by Baltimore Deltas. It was so successful that the facility's program was incorporated into the local public school system and the Delta Alumnae Chapter still supports it.

Maryland Educational Opportunity Center, another Delta initiative, serves single mothers and other population groups statewide and is now federally funded.

Co-Sponsors (Individuals or organizations contributing $100 or more)

• Alpha Gamma Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Morgan State University • Broadway-Payne, Inc. • Girl Scouts of Central Maryland • Morgan State University • Otis Warren & Company Realtors • Quettes, Auxiliary to Pi Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity • SMR Limited, T/A Dogs Plus

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establishment of a Delta Hotline for black single mothers. Delta should work with area radio and television stations, legislators and others to bring it about
- Formation of a coalition or other advocacy group for black single mothers
- Inclusion of courses on parenting, human sexuality and esteem-building in public school curricula
- Development and dissemination of a directory of resources for the black single parent and establishment of an information center
- Dissemination of information on budgeting for low-income families
- Need to teach young males ways to express manhood other than fathering children early

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HIGHLIGHTS from the BALTIMORE SUMMIT

Some 412 persons, including 239 single mothers, came to the Morgan State University Campus on Wednesday, June 6, 1984, to map strategies for attacking problems of the black single mother.

Baltimore alumnae were assisted by Deltas from three nearby undergraduate chapters — Morgan State University, Coppin State College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Delta National President Hortense Canady designated the Baltimore summit the one she and national board members would attend.

The Deltas enlisted the assistance of two bus companies, a church, and Baltimore City Public Schools to transport teenage mothers, expectant mothers, residents of public housing developments, persons waiting at district social services centers and others to the Jenkins Building on the Morgan State campus. Day-care service was provided at the summit site.

Summit Coordinator Ellen Dolvey-Howard said that in addition to special transportation arranged by Delta, summit participants were enterprising in getting to the campus.

"The turnout was quite remarkable since Morgan State is not in the center of town. Yet, people found ways to get there," said Ms. Howard, who is executive director of the Maryland Educational Opportunity Center, a Delta-sponsored agency, in Baltimore.

Single mothers who attended the summit echoed Ms. Howard's remarks about the atmosphere of the conference. "The surroundings were very comfortable. Nobody damned anybody for the way they were. They just offered solutions," observed N. W., a 26-year-old single mother of four. "At the time I was frustrated and really down. But going to the summit that day really lifted my spirits. It gave me some hope," she said.

N. W., who is on public assistance and lives in a Baltimore housing project, said she has been "set on the street" twice within the last year because of public assistance administrative foul-ups. But information she received at the Delta summit about low cost day-care facilities and available job training and educational opportunities has given her the encouragement and tools she needs to organize her life, to seek a college education and eventually realize her dream of becoming a nurse.

An extensive list of governmental, private and civic organizations contributed financially and in other ways to the success of the Baltimore summit. Baltimore alumnae also lined up an impressive roster of national, state and local decision-makers as honorary cochairpersons including Maryland Governor Harry Hughes, Baltimore Mayor William D. Schaefer and Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

Maudine R. Cooper, a lawyer and director of the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights; Maryland House of Delegates member Howard Rawlings; and Khadyah Matin, special project coordinator of the Sisterhood of Black Single Mothers in New York City, were among a host of interesting guest speakers.

Young single mothers surround Deltas in sunken lounge area of Jenkins Building during lunch break. Left to right, second row: Sandra Baxter and Carolyn Boston, co-coordinators of Summit II; and Mrs. Hortense G. Canady. Front: (left) Hazel H. Parks, president, Baltimore Alumnae Chapter; and Ellen Dolvey-Howard.

COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

	Total	Percent
Population	23,507	100.0
White	16,337	69.3
Black	6,723	28.8
Latino	447	1.9
Other Minorities		
Black Single Mothers	510	36.5

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter
Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 5, 1984 8:30 A.M.–5 P.M.
University of Maryland/College Park Campus
Arts/Sociology Building
College Park, Maryland

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Ruby A. Rubens-Montgomery County Chapter
Joanna M. Smith-Prince George's County

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	150
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	75
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	75
TOTAL	300

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee
- Greetings from Local and National Deltas
- Plenary Panel of Experts, Respondents, Moderator
- Lunch/Browsing Information Booths
- Workshops
- Closing Plenary Session

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Education • Victimization • Problems of the Displaced Homemaker • Power and Image • Sources of Income • Parenting

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity • Children's Hospital of Washington • Community Housing Resource Board • Coppin State College • Crossroads • First Baptist Church of Brentwood • Maryland General Assembly • Montgomery County Commission for Women • Montgomery County Department of Social Services • Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission • Montgomery County New Phase Center for Displaced Homemakers • Montgomery County Public Schools • My Sister's Place • Planned Parenthood • Metropolitan Washington • Prince George's County Commission for Women • Prince George's County Department of Social Services • Prince George's County Housing Services • Prince George's County Public Schools • U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau • Women's Legal Defense Fund • Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Networking and establishment of support groups among single parents around issues of parenting, education, victimization, job opportunities, work experiences, etc.
- Publication and dissemination of newsletters and resource fact sheets on new legislation and other developments affecting black single parents
- Hold "mini" summits in churches, apartment complexes, wherever single parents can be found in substantial numbers
- "Summits" for school-aged children to increase their understanding of problems of female heads of households and to identify ways they can lessen the burden
- Publication of a resource book or pamphlet of "help" telephone numbers, important agencies, etc. for Washington, D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area
- Delta should network/coalesce with other agencies to keep shelters for battered women open, and sponsor workshops, forums in schools, churches and other civic organizations on domestic violence to create awareness of the issue
- Need for career planning, counseling, job training opportunities
- Professional women in meaningful positions should serve as mentors for female heads of household
- Needs for educational scholarships for displaced homemakers
- Need for active political participation by female heads of households and Delta leaders, who can write letters to legislators on issues of importance to these parents.

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HIGHLIGHTS from the COLLEGE PARK SUMMIT

More than 275 persons gathered in the Arts/Sociology Building on the University of Maryland campus in College Park to hammer out solutions to problems of the black single mother.

It was the kick-off summit of the thirty-eight held around the country. The Montgomery and Prince George's County Alumnae Chapters hosted the event, which was financed in part by a donation from a local McDonald's restaurant.

Undergraduate Deltas from the University of Maryland and Bowie State College assisted in the planning; the latter group supervised the child care facility at the summit site. Members of a local Girl Scout cadette troup and area Delta Teens served as sitters.

"Deltas will be catalysts for new legislation and will establish one-to-one relationships with female heads of households," said Lynnette Taylor, cochair of the summits and chair of Delta's national Projects, Program Planning and Development Committee, as she opened deliberations at the University of Maryland.

Delta headquarters staff from Washington, D.C. identified the legislation as laws to end domestic violence and better enforcement of existing legislation affecting women, especially child support and pay equity.

Taylor's opening remarks were followed by a plenary panel session moderated by WINX Radio personality Dr. Marjorie Costa. Panelists included Dr. Anne Neal, assistant secretary with the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, Barbara Hill of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Maryland State Senator Decatur Trotter and State Representative Sheila Hixson.

Senator Trotter told the assemblage that 65 percent of those incarcerated in Maryland annually are black, although the black population of the state represents only 22.7 percent of the total population. "It costs this state $35,000 a year to incarcerate a teenager. That's enough to send a child to Harvard, Yale and Princeton in one year," Trotter declared.

Representative Hixson, a white single parent who represents Maryland's 20th district, showed the audience a long printout of "hundreds of laws" throughout the nation on child support. She said the problem was "poor enforcement," not a need for new laws.

Panelists interacted with respondents from the fields of social work, housing and other areas.

"One of the respondents who really turned on summit participants was Devance Walker, a young black who is a (Montgomery) county minority affairs worker," said Montgomery County Alumnae President Ruby Rubens.

Walker gave humorous and meaningful insights on the female-headed household from the perspective of the male child, reared in a female-headed home. He evoked laughter from the audience as he countered the contention that the male child needs a male role model. Looking back on the men his mother had dated, Walker said he had found his mother a better father role model than all the men she brought around for him to emulate. In fact, they just took up a lot of his mother's time, he added.

During the lunch period, participants were encouraged to browse at information booths. Lunch was followed by workshops and a closing plenary session.

One College Park workshop had immediate results. While discussing ways of improving economic status, nearly 20 single mothers decided then and there to form a support group for each other. Deltas agreed to help them keep in touch, and the mothers pledged to meet regularly to hear each other's problems and to suggest solutions.

Ms. Rubens said other positive results have come from the Montgomery County Chapter's efforts in conjunction with other agencies on behalf of black single heads of households. The Montgomery County Commission for Women has hired a staffer to coordinate a new effort, called the Black Women's Hookup, to address needs which are unique to the black mother. Delta Montgomery County alumnae are already considering programming for next year and plan to forge ahead on a directory of legal and other service agencies for black single parents, she said.

Ms. Rubens, an affirmative marketing consultant, said she is a board member of Crossway Community, an organization seeking to establish a transitional community for displaced females. The community would be modeled after Warren Village in Denver.

Another important result of the summit, Ms. Rubens added, was increased insight for media reporters on black single mothers. Ms. Rubens said area papers have historically distorted coverage of the black family, creating the impression that black single mothers are only inner-city poor, welfare-supported females.

"But when we look at many of the summit participants who are single mothers, we educated women are looking at a mirror image. We're talking about Deltas. We're talking about AKAs. We're talking about Zetas and other professional women we see everyday, as well as the unwed and teenage mothers the media love to report on. The category 'black single mother' takes in all these.

"It was rewarding for all of us to be at a conference together, rubbing elbows, trying to come up with solutions to our common problems. I think this fact (of diversity) impressed the media more than anything," she commented.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

	Total	Percent
Population	1,203,339	100
White	402,077	33.4
Black	754,274	62.7
Latino	28,920	2.4
Other Minorities	18,068	1.5
Black Single Mothers	54,847	30.8

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Detroit Alumnae Chapter
Delta Psi
Omicron Zeta Tau

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, June 16, 1984 8:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.
Martin Luther King High School
3200 E. Lafayette

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Velma Mobley
Kathleen Smith

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

- Deltas
- Single Mothers and/or Fathers
- Workshop Leaders, Guests — no breakdown available

TOTAL 300

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Keynote
- Workshops
- Plans for Action
- Conference Evaluation

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Adolescent Mothers • Single Mothers (homemakers, working) • Single Mothers with Handicapped Children • Single Fathers • Single Parents with Preteen and Teen Children

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Black Women Legislators (City and State) • Black United Fund • Butzel Family Center • Children's Center • Detroit Association of Black Organizations • Coalition of Black Greek Sororities • Detroit Institute for Children • Focus HOPE • Lula Belle Stewart Center • NAACP, Detroit Branch • National Association of Black Social Workers • National Council of Negro Women • New Detroit, Inc. • Planned Parenthood, Inc. • Protective Services, Children's Youth Division, Department of Social Services • Urban League of Detroit • Wayne County Department of Social Services • Young Detroit Health Center • Young Men's Christian Association

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Counseling and education programs for single mothers and families including such conferences as the annual family-oriented conference, "What's Happening Now?" on human sexuality. Major focus is prevention of teenage pregnancy and counseling of single mothers. Expert resources: a pediatrician, psychologists and social workers. The 1984 attendance was more than 300. Family members present included adults and children, 10 years and older some of whom were already sexually active.

Since the early 1950s, the Detroit Alumnae Chapter has owned and operated the Delta Home for Girls, a residential facility. It is believed to have been the first home in the nation for black girls who were wards of the court.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide additional workshop/seminars on more specific topics
- Cosponsor, with Detroit City Council, a hearing for black single mothers, enabling them to voice specific issues and concerns
- Establish a media resource for addressing the needs and concerns on a regular basis
- Continue to build coalitions with groups that have an impact on lives of this target group.

"Racism is a large part of the problem," Delta National President Hortense G. Canady declared to the Detroit summit. Another part of the problem, she said, was the pervading myths surrounding black single mothers, citing as examples:

Myth: The welfare system breeds dependence.
Fact: Research studies have found repeatedly that public assistance recipients seek work at every opportunity.
Myth: Most single mothers are on welfare.
Fact: Most single mothers work every day but in low paid jobs.
Myth: Most unwed mothers are black.
Fact: Most unwed mothers are white.

Dr. Bernadine Denning, chair of Delta's Social Action Commission, and national cochair of Summit II, declared: "There is no anti-poverty in any branch of government today. Political action is the answer." She added, "Women far outnumber the men who vote." She said women must make certain that child care is a top national priority.

Just as women must learn to leverage their money, they must also learn to leverage their vote, Judge Cynthia Stevens, a Delta, told the summit. "In Detroit, by leveraging our votes, we have a black mayor, a black female president of the City Council, and a majority of the City Council is black." Her closing comment evoked laughter: "I assume all goods and resources come from God, and I think *SHE* means for us to have our share."

Money management was discussed by Yvonne Rush, a Michigan Bell official and a Delta. "If you have a monthly income of $500," she told the conference, "over ten years you will have controlled $60,000. You are going to control a lot of money. If you can't handle your money, enlist the services of financial planners who will show you how to invest your future. Get into the habit of paying yourself first."

Discussing stress, Dr. June Sears, director, Wayne County Extension Service of Michigan State University, asked women to make changes to avoid stress. "What changes do I need to make?" she asked. "Maybe I need to get more rest. Maybe change begins with me." She urged high self-esteem, humor and an ability to accept constructive criticism.

Think positively, she advised. "If you go out to a parking lot and find you have a flat tire. Say, 'ain't it great!' because you have three tires that are not flat. Look at what's left and what's good."

James M. Wardell, M.D., an obstetrician/gynecologist, told of a physicians' and ministers' health alliance which called for more cooperation of professional blacks to aid other black people. He works with eight to 13-year-olds to prevent drug addiction and to foster self-esteem.

A single mother of four, whose husband deserted her, H.M., told of organizing Black Parents for Quality Education. The group has helped select school administrators, developed school-community relations policies and has brought court actions to assure that black children receive a good education in the Detroit public schools.

Black females aged 21-44 greatly outnumber black males, JoAnn Fulgrim, of the Detroit Health Department, said. She called for greater mutual understanding of black men and women. "Black women don't understand what black men have to endure in this society. Black men feel black women have it made because of their education and ability to find employment."

Dr. Bernadine Denning, national cochair of Summit II, kicks off the Detroit summit. Listening attentively from left to right are: Hortense G. Canady, Delta national president; Mattie Johnson, president, Detroit Alumnae Chapter; Barbara Foster, president, Women's Conference of Concerns; James Wardell, M.D. At far left is conference convener Carrie L. Grey, first vice-president, Detroit Alumnae Chapter.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

	Total	Percent
Population	370,951	100.0
White	321,507	86.7
Black	28,026	7.6
Latino	4,684	1.2
Other Minorities	16,734	4.5
Black Single Mothers	2,453	38.4

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

St. Paul/Minneapolis Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 8:30 A.M.–4:00 P.M.
Sabathani Community Center
310 E. 38th Street

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Brenda Norwood

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	31
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	29
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	11
TOTAL	71

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Keynote Address
- Morning Workshops
- Lunch
- Afternoon Workshops
- Wrap-Up Panel/Conclusion

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Stress Management • Parenting • Developing a Positive Self-Image • Job Planning and Training • Money Management • Developing a Support Network

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Shabazz Learning Center • P.A.T. • State Assembly • Minnesota CoAct • Macedonia Baptist Church • University of Minnesota • Twin Cities Courier • Women Helping Offenders • Minnesota Black Minority • Girl Scout Council • I.D.S./American Express • Minnesota Women's Consortium • St. Paul Family Service • Emergency Food Shelves • Genesis II • Iota Phi Lambda Sorority

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Regular tutoring program for students — 2nd through 8th grade.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Hold a program in the spring on topics of interest to black single parents
- Involve more single fathers and younger single mothers

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HIGHLIGHTS from the MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL SUMMIT

"We can't engage in shaming and blaming. As Ben Franklin said, 'God helps them that help themselves,'" keynoter Dr. Shirli M. Vioni declared in opening the summit. Superintendent of the suburban Wayzata public schools, Dr. Vioni called for more day care centers for the children of single mothers.

"Head Start has demonstrated the ability to overcome deficits of kids who have not had the advantage of two-parent homes and children who have suffered economic deprivation," Delta Vioni added. She commended her sorority for its effort and stressed "the importance of partnerships among black women and black women's organizations."

Dr. Vioni also urged better training for available jobs and called for greater awareness of the problems of low-income women. "In 1984, this year of Orwell, however, we should avoid the Big Daddy syndrome, as government helps less and less. We must be vigilant that our rights are not diminished and lost." She said action now was needed on behalf of black single mothers.

"We must aggressively rally to their support. We, too, must ask ourselves, as Winston Churchill did of the English people when bolstering them in the battle against Hitler during World War II, 'If not now, then when? If not you, then who?'"

After the keynote, workshops were held on stress management, parenting and developing a positive self-image. In the afternoon, workshops were held on job planning and training, money management and developing a support network. "There was an excellent turnout for the discussion on resources and where they could get community assistance," said Delta chapter President Bernice S. Smith.

Specific resources were pointed out: the Northside Neighborhood Council for low-income housing, Northside Legal Aid Society for legal care and the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry for low-cost, quality dental care. Parents with teenager problems were told about the area's incorrigibility coalition which uses the court system as a device for control. And the survival skills center in North Minneapolis provides support and teaches the responsibilities of sexual involvement.

"Accept where you're at, love yourself and give to yourself," participants were told in the session on stress management. In the job training workshop, participants heard about "The Three S's for Success: Substance, Self-Assurance and Style."

Charles Crutchfield, M.D. led the wrap-up panel at day's end. "The biggest problem," he declared, "is ignorance! I see females after they have become pregnant but it's a little late then. We must help our young people take responsibility for their actions and educate them on the use of birth control." He said recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) can now sign up for Physician's Health Plan (PHP) programs in which the patient can be treated by one physician.

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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

	Total	Percent
Population	202,895	100.0
White	105,761	52.2
Black	94,480	45.7
Latino	1,508	1.1
Other Minorities	1,146	1.0
Black Single Mothers	7,824	36.6

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Jackson Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 9 A.M.–3:30 P.M.
Farish Street Baptist Church
619 North Farish Street

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Alferdteen Harrison

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	77
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	55
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	41
TOTAL	173

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration with Coffee and Doughnuts
- Opening Session with Keynote Speaker
- Three Sets of Two Concurrent Panels
- Free Luncheon
- Closing Session Consisting of Reports from Each Panel and the Report of the Summit Task Force

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Physical and Mental Health Services for Coping with Stress • Continuing Education: Funding and Educational Options • Job Training • Parenting and Child Care • Teenage Mothers and Child Care • Victimization: Physical and Substance Abuse

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Catholic Charities, Inc. • City of Jackson, Human Services Department • Department of Mental Health • Farish Street Baptist Church • Governor's Office of Federal and State Programs • Governor's Office, Job Development and Training • Hinds County Welfare Department • Independent Home Program • Jackson/Hinds Comprehensive Health Center • Jackson Mental Health Center • Jackson State University • Job Corps • Learning Tree School • Mississippi Department of Education; Mississippi Educational Television; Mississippi State Employment Service • Shelter for Battered Women

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Writing proposals for funding of job training
- Better jobs and income opportunities for single mothers
- Legislation which would increase the amount of support payments for single mothers
- Repealing insensitive legislation or regulations which financially penalize mothers for working
- Educational programs on parenting responsibilities
- Development of sister-to-sister relationships between chapter members and area single mothers

HIGHLIGHTS from the JACKSON SUMMIT

Delta Sigma Theta members from Jackson and the surrounding area gathered at the Farish Street Baptist Church in Jackson on Saturday, May 19 to discuss and plan approaches to the problems of single parents in their community. As a result, a 28-member Task Force on Support Systems for Black Single Mothers, composed of public officials and representatives of various religious, educational, health, and community organizations, was created. Task force members gave priority to four of the more than 15 possible projects suggested by summit participants. Immediate action will be taken on the following:

1. Creation of a directory of services for single parents
2. Seeking radio and television appearances for Task Force spokespersons to publicize concerns of and support systems for single parents
3. Establishment of a Women's Resource Center that emphasizes support systems for black single mothers
4. Utilization of churches to conduct various activities for single parents (spaghetti suppers, discussions on topics of interest to single parents, exercise classes, etc.)

Some 170 persons turned out for the Jackson Summit, including Deltas from nearly Alcorn, Greenville, Laurel, Natchez, and Tupelo Alumnae Chapters. The event was well publicized, with representatives from two television channels, three newspapers and a radio station covering the program. The television stations had news of the summit on their 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscast. And there was much to cover.

Keynoter Delta Constance Slaughter-Harvey delivered a rousing address following an invocation, collective recitation of the Lord's Prayer, singing of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," and selections by the Jackson State University Speech Choir.

Mrs. Harvey, Mississippi assistant secretary of state, called on those present to hold elected officials accountable for more responsive legislation affecting single parents and urged them to be more responsible in taking charge of their own destinies.

"Whether you are a single parent, poor or whatever, you still must set some priorities and assist in shaping your child's future or there will be no future," she said.

Mrs. Harvey commented that when she and her husband recently enrolled their soon-to-be six-year-old in a public school in Forest, just outside Jackson, they discovered that, although the school system has 50 percent black students, only 10 percent of the faculty is black.

"It's our fault in many ways," she said. "We must hold school boards accountable and ourselves accountable as well for not being intimately involved. We need to go to the PTA meetings, to hold principals and other school officials responsible, and to be as interested in our children's education as were our parents and grandparents when school were segregated," Mrs. Harvey declared.

Mrs. Harvey noted that there are increasing numbers of blacks in policy-making positions including many Deltas. She urged black professionals to use their expertise in proposal writing and organization to help improve the plight of black single mothers.

Delta Coordinator Alferdteen Harrison, a history professor at Jackson State University, agreed that proposals for funding are crucial.

Professor Harrison, who is also director of the University's Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People, said she has received a number of calls since the summit from single mothers requesting assistance.

"I have a real sense of helplessness because I have absolutely no resources to do this," she continued.

"We had a very good summit. I was elated with the kind of cooperation I received from the Delta women and others who helped put the summit on.

"But my frustration is that we do not have the money to implement the various programs which would address the needs we uncovered. We need a full-time program to look into these issues, some agency or someone to respond to the requests of these mothers. We would really appreciate a list of agencies or foundations which would possibly fund such a project. Without implementation of this nature, we've just held another conference," she pointed out.

A single parent of two teenage sons herself, Professor Harrison said she was also struck by the number of calls she received prior to the summit from black men who felt giving public attention to these issues reflected badly on them.

"Many felt the issue should be pushed under the table. But, as I told them, the statistics show that there is a real need for addressing problems of black single mothers.

"The women who attended the summit expressed appreciation for what we were doing, since many had felt isolated in their situations. The conference said to them that they are not alone and that their problems are fairly common," she concluded.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

	Total	Percent
Population	448,159	100.0
White	305,176	68.1
Black	122,018	27.2
Latino	14,703	1.4
Other Minorities	6,262	1.4
Black Single Mothers	8,069	28.5

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Kansas City, Missouri Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 12, 1984 8:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M.
Penn Valley Community College
Campus Center Building
Kansas City, Missouri

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Inez Kaiser
Renee Kerr

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

- Deltas
- Single Mothers and/or Fathers
- Workshop Leaders, Guests

TOTAL 100

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Opening Session
- Panel of Seven Single Mothers
- Panel of Seven Experts
- Lunch with Keynote Speakers and Special Presentations to Single Mothers
- Wrap-up Session

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Mental Health • Health Services • Child Care • Finances • Job Training • Housing • Legal Rights

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Veteran's Administration Hospital • Truman Medical Center (City Hospital) • Pre-School • Merrill Lynch, Inc. • Kansas City, Missouri Authority • Hallmark Cards • Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Mid-America, Inc. • Eastern Airlines • Mayor's Office • Penn Valley Community College • Craig Flowers • Women's Bureau

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Black women should be encouraged to attend public hearings and to write city, state and federal elected officials to express concern about relevant legislation
- Future conferences should emphasize the high probability of all women eventually becoming single mothers, whether through divorce, death of the spouse or other circumstances
- Another conference which is inclusive of *all* women should be held as a followup next year
- A future conference should address the needs of more categories of mothers (i.e. the senior mother and the "empty nest syndrome," handicapped mothers, mothers of handicapped children, etc.)
- Support groups should be formed for each category of single mother (divorced, widowed, teenage, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS from the KANSAS CITY SUMMIT

Myrlie Evers, wife of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, was spotlighted at the Kansas City summit, held the day before Mothers Day on Saturday, May 12 at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, Missouri. The Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas Alumnae Chapters co-hosted the event, which drew more than 100 participants.

Evers, currently director of consumer affairs for the Atlantic Richfield Co. in Los Angeles, told the audience that awareness of the problems single mothers face is growing.

"The issue of single motherhood was one that was once hidden. Black women were incensed by the remarks of Patrick Moynihan in the 60s. But the issue of single motherhood is now out of the closet," she said.

"I really had no interest in living after Medgar was killed. He was my life. But I had these three children depending on me so I had to make it for them," Evers told a *Kansas City Star* reporter.

The report said Medgar Evers, who had been instrumental in registering blacks to vote in Jackson Mississippi despite the backlash of angry whites, had just arrived home from a meeting the night of June 12, 1963 when a bullet struck him in the back. Mrs. Evers and their three children stood screaming and helpless as his bleeding body, still moving, lay in the doorway.

Mrs. Evers wasn't helpless for long, however. She left Jackson for New York, where she took a job as a vice president for an advertising agency. She later moved to California where she assumed her present position and received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Pomona College in Claremont, California.

"The scars are still there but they aren't so massive,"Mrs. Evers said in the report. She remarried eight years ago. Her husband, Walter Williams, insisted she keep her first husband's surname "out of respect for Medgar," whom he admired.

Mrs. Evers told the audience, "I may be standing before you in a silk dress, and you may be sitting out there in your finery. There may be a single mother who doesn't have shoes for herself and her children; but we're all in the same boat.

"There are those of us who sometimes think we have arrived. We haven't. It pays to look back on from where we have come and to have a little compassion for those of us who are still trying to make it," she said.

Mrs. Evers was presented a key to the city by a representative of Mayor Richard Berkley's office. The mayor had proclaimed Saturday, May 12 "Delta Summit II: In Support of Single Black Mothers" Day.

Also during the luncheon, single mothers who had been nominated by local organizations as candidates for "Single Black Mother of the Year" were recognized and given 14-carat gold charms with the message, "#1 Mother." The Kansas City, Missouri Chapter also honored a single mother from its members.

Mrs. Evers' luncheon remarks were preceded in the morning by two special panels. The first featured seven single mothers, who shared their experiences. The group included mothers who were teenage, foster, adoptive, divorced and single by other circumstances as well.

The second panel featured experts in seven areas who shared invaluable information from their fields. "The conference was geared toward breaking dependence on welfare programs through the sharing of information on jobs and training programs," said Phyllis Ragsdale, president of the Kansas City, Mo. Alumnae Chapter.

"It was a very provocative day overall. One of our recommendations for next time is that a timer be used during panel presentations," said Summit Cochair Inez Kaiser, adding that the presentations were excellent but that there wasn't enough time for each panelist to share as fully as he or she might have liked.

At the closing session, a variety of helpful pamphlets and other printed materials were distributed and an evaluation conducted.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

	Total	Percent
Population	453,085	100.0
White	239,420	52.8
Black	204,970	45.2
Latino	5,531	1.2
Other Minorities	3,164	.7
Black Single Mothers	14,323	31.5

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

St. Louis Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 9:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M.
Mathews — Dickey Boys Club
4245 North Kings Highway

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Elaine Williams

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	12
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	48
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	6
TOTAL	66

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration
- Keynote Speaker
- Concurrent Workshops
- Lunch
- Concurrent Workshops
- Workshop/Evaluation

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Jobs/Labor Laws • Careers • Education Training

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Kinloch Community Center • St. Louis Division of Family Services (also of county) • Local Churches

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Form more support groups for black single parents
- Hold more workshops
- Have older children of single parents to sit in on discussion and form their own support group

HIGHLIGHTS from the ST. LOUIS SUMMIT

Single mothers from the Kinloch Community Center were the largest number of participants at Delta's St. Louis summit. They strongly supported the recommendation to hold another summit in Fall, 1984 and urged that teenage children of single mothers sit in on future workshops and discussion. They also urged that their teen children set up a support group for themselves in which they can talk out problems and jointly reach solutions.

"Many of the single parents attending our summit pointed out there are many positive aspects of being a single parent," Delta coordinator Elaine Williams said. Some participants noted self-reliance and independence among these.

"It was a day of sharing information, feelings and forming support groups", Mrs. Williams added.

An interesting feature of the St. Louis Summit was its concurrent rotating workshops which enabled each person at the summit to attend every workshop; costs were minimal, the fee included coffee, doughnuts and lunch. Handouts from the North Kansas School District on single parents, children of single parents and safety tips for latch-key children were available.

Delta Ida Goodwin-Woolfolk was the keynoter and workshops were led by Priscilla Martin (Jobs/Labor Laws), Marie Burrow (Careers) and Ivory Lofton (Education Training). Lunch was a working session where attorneys Ruby Bonner and Freeman Bosley, Jr. discussed the legal aspects of single parenting.

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CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

	Total	Percent
Population	314,447	100.0
White	210,212	66.9
Black	96,573	30.7
Latino	3,418	1.1
Other Minorities	4,244	1.4
Black Single Mothers	6,362	27.8

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Charlotte Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 26, 1984 9:45 A.M.– 1:30 P.M.
McCrorey Branch YMCA
3801 Beatties Ford Road

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Mary R. Gill

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	18
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	40
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	15
TOTAL	73

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee and Doughnuts
- Opening Session with Keynote
- Workshops
- Wrap-up and Evaluation

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Budgeting • Job Training • Free Community Services

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• City of Charlotte • First Union National Bank • United Community Services • Charlotte-Mecklenburg Council on Adolescent Pregnancy • Piedmont Court • Pitts Drive Organization • Resident Advisory Council • Little Rock Tenants Organization

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The chapter will hold another summit in the fall, repeating some of the earlier workshops and also including others
- Local Deltas will visit at least eight neighborhood service centers to determine the needs of single mothers and to link them to appropriate agencies
- Chapter members will give talks to missionary societies and other church groups in order to reach divorced, separated and widowed parents, as well as unwed teenage mothers whom the neighborhood centers predominantly serve
- Charlotte, Newport News, Virginia and Columbia, South Carolina will work together as a task force to package information about summit objectives and post-summit strategies for Deltas in the 125 South Atlantic communities which have not yet held summits
- Followup conference
- Develop support groups, especially for financial planning

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HIGHLIGHTS from the CHARLOTTE SUMMIT

The May 26th Charlotte summit generated plans for visits to at least eight neighborhood service centers to determine the needs of single mothers and to link them to appropriate agencies.

"After our initial meeting, we decided we needed to disseminate information about available services to people in the community," said Elaine Nichols of the Charlotte chapter.

To accomplish this, Charlotte Deltas were to visit area organizations, established programs which give particular attention to the single parent or other appropriate groups.

"We plan to hold another summit in the fall, during which we will repeat some of the earlier workshops and include others. The August sessions at the area neighborhood centers will help us learn what kinds of workshops these mothers would like to have," Ms. Nichols remarked.

Ms. Nichols said Charlotte Deltas will also give talks to missionary societies and other church groups in order to reach divorced, separated and widowed parents, as well as unwed teenage mothers whom the neighborhood centers predominantly serve. "We want to serve a broad cross section of single mothers and to do so on an ongoing basis," she said.

Ms. Nichols, a professor of Afro-American and African studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, introduced the head of her department and the Frank Porter Graham professor, Dr. Bertha Maxwell, to the 70 participants at the Charlotte summit, held at the local YMCA. Maxwell outlined the purpose of Summit II as set forth in documents from Delta national headquarters. She echoed Ms. Nichols' remarks about the need to disseminate as widely as possible information about Delta's efforts on behalf of black single mothers.

"We need a 'Fuller Brush' (door-to-door) approach, so to speak, for taking this information into the larger community in order to create an awareness, especially among single mothers in low-rent areas," said Dr. Maxwell, director of Delta's South Atlantic Region and a single mother of two.

Dr. Maxwell said a task force of Delta summit coordinators from Charlotte, Newport News, Virginia and Columbia, South Carolina has been created to package information about summit objectives and post-summit strategies for Deltas in the 125 South Atlantic communities which have not yet held summits. She also reported that a regional council is hard at work developing "goals, objectives, strategies and timelines."

Participants at the Charlotte summit listened closely to experts in budgeting, job training and free community services, as well as to a marriage and family therapist keynoter.

In her opening session address, Carole B. Ricks discussed work, economics, child care and emotional pressures.

Mrs. Ricks said at the outset that she is "just so tired" of the public's attitude that single parent households are not normal. "Single-parent families are different, not deviant. Many social policies are based on that erroneous premise. The general community must learn to be more supportive of these families," she noted.

Single parents can also provide emotional relief and support for each other, suggested Mrs. Ricks, the only black therapist in Charlotte. "Have the kids sleep over at a friend's one night, then you take all the children another night. So often the single parent overlooks time for self. Yet, the time is desperately needed to take some of the emotional stress and strain from parenting. It also gives the kids relief from the parent — they need a break too," she said.

Mrs. Ricks stressed the importance of cooperating with other single parents and/or relatives to insure back-up care for children, particularly in an emergency. "Single parents cannot afford to be isolated. Social isolation just increases the pressure," said Mrs. Ricks, who hosts "Carole's Corner," a local radio talk program on Charlotte's WPEG Radio. She also writes a soon-to-be syndicated newspaper column of the same title.

To ease financial pressures, Mrs. Ricks suggested parents encourage older children to earn money to help with incidentals by taking on such jobs as mowing lawns, babysitting or working a newspaper route.

"They feel better when they are contributing something. Too many parents try to shield their children from economic realities and then they are not prepared to deal with the real world later on," she said.

Mrs. Ricks attributed such shielding of children from the true nature of the family financial situation to the frequently held view that the good parent is one who can provide the child with everything he or she wants. "Good parenthood should not be measured by the abundance of material things one is able to give one's children," observed Mrs. Ricks, a married mother of three. "Some of the greatest gifts parents can give to their children include teaching them how to cope, how to get along with people, and how to be patient and wait for emotional and physical gratification," she concluded.

After Mrs. Ricks' presentation, summit participants spent the remaining time in workshops, which were followed by a wrap-up and evaluation sessions.

"We plan to work now with small groups on a weekly basis," Coordinator Mary R. Gill, a high school counselor said.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

	Total	Percent
Population	573,822	100.0
White	299,970	52.3
Black	249,504	43.5
Latino	17,772	3.1
Other Minorities	6,576	1.2
Black Single Mothers	17,889	29.1

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 12, 1984 9 A.M.–4 P.M.
Cleveland State University Law School
E. 18th and Euclid Avenues

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Sybil Penn
Frances Hunter

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	80
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	150
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	25
TOTAL	255

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Breakfast
- Opening Session, Welcome, Keynote
- Workshops
- Lunch
- Workshops, Resolutions and Recommendations

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Career Planning/Job Search • Teen Pregnancy • How to Have a Positive Healthful Life • Financial Planning • Women and Politics • How to Use Our Power • Coping As Young Parents • Personal Motivation/Self Confidence • Employment and Training • Rape: Awareness and Prevention • Building New Coalitions for Female Heads of Households • Religious Action • Early Grandparenting • Politics of Child Care • How to Start Your Own Business with No Money Down • Programs for Teen Parents • Alcohol and Substance Abuse by Women • Displaced Homemakers

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority • Black Professionals Association • Calvery Hill Missionary Baptist Church • Cleveland YWCA, Project ReDirection • Cuyahoga County Welfare Department • Displaced Homemaker's Program — Cuyahoga Community College • East Cleveland Welfare Rights Organization • Group Dynamics, Inc. • Harvard Community Services Center • National Association of Black Social Workers • National Association of Career Women's Civic Club Inc. • National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. • Cleveland Club • National Council of Negro Women • Phi Delta Kappa • Project Friendship, Inc. • Project Rainbow, Inc. • Sanctuary Baptist Church • Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority • St. Mark's Presbyterian Church • The Teen Father Program — A Family Service • Women's Comprehensive Program — Cleveland State University

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The planning committee will submit a fiscal report to all participants
- The reports will identify future programs and projects
- The coalition developed at the Summit will develop a position paper and platform

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HIGHLIGHTS from the CLEVELAND SUMMIT

Coalition and seeing "it could be done" seemed especially strong themes of the Cleveland summit to cochair Frances Hunter, a YW official. "One of the most important aspects of our summit was coalition — many different women of different backgrounds, and all kinds of education, coming together," she said.

The very process of the summit and its lively discussions made many women's organizations more aware of the problems of single mothers. It also helped them "to perceive what could be done together," said Delta Hunter, a single mother of adult children.

"I know very well the problems our guests expressed," she said. "I was a divorced single mother and had to deal with returning to school and getting teacher's credentials when my children were small."

She and cochair Sybil Penn were elated at the evaluations of single mothers attending the summit. Asked the highlights of the summit, one participant wrote, "Everything."

"They were hungry for information — where to go for different kinds of training and assistance," Mrs. Hunter declared. Sybil Penn overheard one young mother say, "These ladies (the Deltas) are real nice. I thought they were going to be up on themselves."

The coalition aspect of Cleveland's conference was borne out by the preplanning and financial support of the summit, not only by Delta but by a number of organizations. In addition, the Cleveland Foundation funded awards for 20 mothers who could not otherwise afford to attend and pay the modest registration and lunch fees. The Foundation's gift also funded child care provided at the Cleveland YWCA Day Care Center.

At the summit, women representing many organizations pledged to continue the problem-solving efforts to assist single mothers. One teenager struck home with her answer to the question, "How will you use the information gained?" She answered, "Talk with other teens who need help."

Lively speakers at the Cleveland summit were a cross section of out-of-town and local experts, Delta and non-Delta. They included the Rev. Herbert Smith; Lynnette Taylor, chair of Delta's national Projects/Program Planning and Development Committee and national cochair of the summits; Cheryle Wills, Marjorie Hall-Ellis, Mary Butcher, and Patricia Stewart.

Cleveland summit participants enjoy box lunches while Delta Marjorie Hall-Ellis (lower right at podium) describes format for luncheon panel discussion on coalition-building.

Delta Marjorie Hall-Ellis (at microphone), director of the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department, moderated the box lunch discussion, during the Cleveland summit. Also shown are (from left to right): Rev. Herbert Smith, minister of Sanctuary Baptist Church; Delta Cheryle Wills, director, Operation Alert, City of Cleveland; State Representative Mary O. Boyle; Lynnette Taylor; Mark Real, director, Ohio Children's Defense Fund.

TOLEDO, OHIO

	Total	Percent
Population	354,635	100.0
White	279,003	78.7
Black	61,384	17.3
Latino	10,667	3.0
Other Minorities	3,581	1.0
Black Single Mothers	4,554	31.2

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Toledo Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 8:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M.
Brand Whitlock Community Building
642 Division Street

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Diame J. Brown
Josephine Bester, Cochair

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	18
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	3
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	8
TOTAL	29

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee and Rolls
- Opening Session, with Keynote Speaker
- Workshops
- Lunch, with "Dressing for Business" Fashion Show and Speaker
- Closing Session

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Job Entry • Your Career: Getting Ahead • Money Now; Managing What You Have • Money Later: Making it Work for the Future

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Toledo Public Schools • University of Toledo • First Federal Savings and Loan of Toledo • United Auto Workers, Defiance, Ohio • Lucas County Housing Authority • ABC School • The French Bakery • Women's Apparel Warehouse • Crittenton Services of Toledo • Lucas County Mental Health Board • City of Toledo

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

A thrift shop in a vacant apartment in the housing development where the summit was held. LMHA donates the $250 monthly rent for the apartment and Deltas provide most of the clothing, household items and books sold there.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase number of affordable day care facilities and preschool programs for toddlers younger than Head Start age
- Increase job opportunities in Toledo, especially for black women
- For future summits, Deltas will invite single mothers individually and provide group transportation as added incentive for them to participate
- Future workshops on job entry and career advancement

HIGHLIGHTS from the TOLEDO SUMMIT

Joyce Mathis, assistant director of placement services at the University of Toledo, was the keynote speaker at the Toledo summit and she forcefully brought home the need for unification among blacks and sharing of resources to combat problems of single mothers and of nonprofessional members of minority groups generally.

"Most successful minority persons are so busy pursuing the lifestyle they've carved out for themselves that they don't see the subtle socioeconomic changes occurring which broaden the gap between minority professionals and nonprofessionals. As professionals, we cannot afford to alienate ourselves from the majority of (blacks) and thereby help to create a permanent underclass in the United States," she said.

Ms. Mathis said the Toledo Deltas demonstrated their commitment to remedying "clogged communications" between minority professionals and nonprofessionals by holding their summit in a Lucas County Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) development in the inner city.

Summit Coordinator Diane J. Brown said local Deltas operate a thrift shop in a vacant apartment in the housing development where the summit was held. LMHA donates the $250 monthly rent for the apartment and Deltas provide most of the clothing, household items and books sold there. "The location is extremely convenient for a lot of single mothers. We plan to continue working in this community," said Brown.

Ms. Mathis outlined for the 29 participants various programs offered by her office which seek to enhance the mental well being of single black mothers and the employability of these and poor minority youth generally.

"We encourage young people to make the most of their education, not just to take the physical education and other classes they enjoy, but to take courses that will help them develop analytical skills. Based on trends right now, people who have analytical, quantitative skills will be most employable in the future. If a young person can pull together a sharp enough background on paper to convince a prospective employer he or she is trainable, the chances for employment are better. But students must consider their future *now* by taking useful courses," she said.

Ms. Mathis added that her office hopes to pull together a directory of various resources for black students.

The university also offers a rap-support group through its counseling center which helps single mothers work through feelings of rage, resentment and hostility they may feel toward their children for hampering their mobility or toward the fathers for failing to take on their share of financial and other responsibilities.

Following Ms. Mathis' keynote address, participants gained valuable information in workshops on budgeting, wills, trusts and estates, job-entry issues and career advancement.

"The summit was for everyone because you never know when you might become a single mother. The excellent information we received could be used by anyone," she commented.

Mary Hankins, an administrative assistant in direct deposits for First Federal Savings and Loan of Toledo, advised the women present on the importance of budgeting and maintaining good credit, and gave tips for effective use of credit cards. "People who say a budget is a thing of the past are wrong. The federal, state and local governments all operate on a budget. A household also cannot run efficiently without a budget," she said.

One of her credit card tips was to consolidate charges on one multipurpose card, such as Visa. "If you have 10 charge cards with a $500 spending limit on each, it's highly unlikely that you'll be able to make $50 monthly payments on all 10 with your utilities and other expenses too. Get a Visa. You can use it at 90 percent of the stores in the world and you'll have only one monthly bill to pay for all of your purchases," she said.

Ms. Hankins said those who have several charge accounts can ask Visa to pay them off and consolidate their charges with that one company, but the resulting interest would be "severe," she added.

Ms. Hankins also suggested destroying one's charge plate when the limit has been reached. After the bill has been paid in full, a replacement card can be requested. Other tips were to catch sales, purchase only quality merchandise which will last a while, and to contact creditors, especially mortgagors, in the event of a lay-off or job loss to make arrangements for partial payment, rather than doing nothing until full payment can be made.

"At least the creditor or mortgagor will know you're trying," she said.

Ms. Hankins commented that a budget should also allow the single mother to pamper herself from time to time.

"If you save well, sometimes you'll find you have a few pennies to treat yourself to a nice meal. It's very important that we pamper ourselves occasionally," remarked Ms. Hankins, who is single.

"We want single mothers to challenge themselves to go a little further, to do a little bit more, and not to be satisfied or comfortable with current achievements," Ms. Brown said.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

	Total	Percent
Population	403,213	100.0
White	317,248	78.7
Black	58,344	14.5
Latino	11,295	2.8
Other Minorities	16,326	4.0
Black Single Mothers	3,831	27.3

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT
Saturday, June 9, 1984 9:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.
St. John's Baptist Church
5700 N. Kelley

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)
Helen C. Gigger
Janis Dunn

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	24
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	35
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	10
TOTAL	69

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE
- Registration
- Welcome and Overview
- Workshops
- Development of Plan of Action

WORKSHOP TOPICS
• Knowing your Legal Rights and Utilizing Political Power • Child Care • Money Matters • How to Have a Positive Healthful Life • Coping as a Single Parent • Personal Motivation and Self Confidence • Alcohol and Substance Abuse by Single Women • Career Development — Training

AGENCIES REPRESENTED
• Urban League • NAACP • Area Wide Aging • Red Rock Mental Health Community Action Program • YWCA • YMCA • Salvation Army • AME Church • CME Church • Baptist Churches • Church of God and Christ • Department of Human Services • Vo-Tech • OIC

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS
• Stress Program, a 6-year-old annual workshop on Stress and the Black Female, heavily attended by single mothers • Delta Teen-Lift Arts, Science, Health Project • 12-week training program for 50 young people

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Establish a center in the McFarland Branch YWCA to provide services for single black mothers
- Publish a brochure indicating day and time services will be available
- Meet with ministers to explain the program and submit referrals to the center
- Publish an information directory listing services now available for the single black mother
- Provide counseling in the following areas: Legal, Health, Credit, Child Care, Insurance, Real Estate, Investments and Employment
- Provide on-the-job training for single black mothers (pursuant to a grant)
- Provide tutorial services
- Sponsor workshops for single black mothers
- Continue to network with all community organizations concerned with the plight of single black mothers
- Work toward the Delta Chapter establishing a child care center for single black mothers

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HIGHLIGHTS from the OKLAHOMA CITY SUMMIT

The Oklahoma City summit began with a continental breakfast and registration. The Delta chapter received no outside funding and no fee was charged persons attending the seminar.

"The point that struck me the most," said Coordinator Helen Gigger, a city attorney and the married mother of one child, "was that I was not aware of many problems single mothers face. Things women who are not single mothers take for granted are often very big problems." She enumerated child care, treatment on the job and social isolation.

"Many of the single mothers at the summit were pleased that somebody was interested in their problems — that they were being looked at as a significant part of society and were not forgotten," she added. It should be noted that in Oklahoma City, as in many, if not all of the other summit cities, some of the single mothers participating were Deltas.

Attorney N. Sue Allen discussed legal rights; social worker Prins E. Anderson child care; corporate representatives Lynn Wall, Eric Wiggins, Frances Gibbs, Roscoe Cogbrun and Davondra Love from IRS, money matters and financial planning; medical technician Jackie C. Abrams, a positive, healthful life; social workers Cathi Terry-Hughes, coping as a single parent and Maria Gore, alcohol and substance abuse by single women.

The workshops were well received. "I think the one on drug dependency," said Mrs. Gigger, "had great impact because it helped all of us to see why a person turns to drugs or alcohol, that loneliness and the stresses of her life may cause a single mother to become dependent. It made more sense of why people become addicted. It's not wanting to use drugs or alcohol but a way to cope."

Delta Janis Dunn, who cochairs with Mrs. Gigger, the chapter's Social Action Committee, said she is more than ever convinced that "we should do other things and we will continue the programs to assist single mothers."

An insurance company supervisor, Mrs. Dunn noticed that although much of the summit covered topics of interest to everyone, stress and insurance, for examples, it also gave single mothers information targeted to their specific needs such as how to assure steady child support.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

	Total	Percent
Population	423,938	100.0
White	314,810	74.2
Black	101,139	23.8
Latino	3,196	.7
Other Minorities	4,793	1.1
Black Single Mothers	7,800	32.8

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Pittsburgh Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, June 23, 1984 8:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.
Carnegie-Mellon University, Skibo Hall

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Veleter M.B. Mazyck

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	28
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	79
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	20
TOTAL	127

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration
- Welcome and Overview
- Continental Brunch
- Workshops
- Reports, Feedbacks, Remarks

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Income Maximization • Small Business Opportunities • Education — Starting from Where You Are • Education — Beyond the Basics • Your Legal Rights — Support; Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency; Protection for Abuse • Parenting Made Easier

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Mayor's Task Force on Women • The YWCA of Pittsburgh • Alma Illery Health Center • Health and Welfare Planning Association Child Care Network • Urban League of Pittsburgh • Allegheny County Children and Youth Services • Gulf Oil Corporation ($300 contribution) • KDKA-TV (Westinghouse Broadcasting) printed all Summit II brochures and registration forms without charge

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Cooperation with McGee Women's Hospital Bright Beginnings and Hill House Little Sisters

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Summit II was the beginning of an informal coalition of organizations, individuals and governmental agencies around problems of single parents. The coalition will continue to meet regularly and to discuss future projects and/or continuing programs which can be implemented separately or jointly
- Pittsburgh's Delta Alumnae Chapter will expand its current involvement with McGee Women's Hospital Bright Beginnings program — a hotline and counseling service for pregnant teenagers and the fathers of their children, and preventive teenage pregnancy program. Deltas will also continue to work with Hill House Little Sisters program: a multifaceted relationship with children and teens in deprived circumstances necessitating, at the least, weekly group contact
- The Delta Summit II committee will also consider several one-day programs to address specific needs of single parents, male and female, and will make recommendations to the chapter in light of Summit II feedback

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HIGHLIGHTS from the PITTSBURGH SUMMIT

The Pittsburgh Deltas called their Summit II "A Call to Action in Support of Single Female Heads of Households," and welcomed all single mothers. The summit received strong support from professional and community groups and political and governmental figures. The chapter received supportive letters from Pennsylvania's Governor Dick Thornburgh, Lieutenant Governor William Scranton III, U.S. Senator John Heinz, several members of Congress and the state legislature. Lieutenant Governor Scranton requested findings of the Summit for use by the State Planning Board's project, "Human Services: CHOICES for Pennsylvania."

The conference materials printed by KDKA-TV (station Public Affairs Director Carolyn McClair is a black single mother) were widely distributed by supportive agencies. The Mayor's Task Force distributed Delta's information packet under cover of a letter of support to public educational institutions, and local and county government offices. The YWCA distributed brochures and registration forms to their branches. The Health and Planning Association mailed the same materials to their 200 day care centers. The Alma Illery Health Center, a minority-operated medical facility, Children and Youth Services and the Urban League distributed the materials to the single mothers they serve.

With the cooperation of Delta C. Dianne Colbert, director of Education Research and Information Systems for Greater Pittsburgh Public Broadcasting Corporation, a staff artist of WQED-TV, the local PBS affiliate, designed a Summit II logo.

Delta Summit Coordinator Veleter Mazyck was impressed by the fact that at least 10 single mothers with adult children attended and expressed feelings of regret that there had been no such interest when their children were young. One mother had called before the summit and said she had left her parents' home in Georgia because they had wanted her to put her child up for adoption. "She moved to another city and raised her child," Attorney Mazyck said. "She said she not only wanted to come to participate in the workshops but to facilitate them. She came and shared her day-to-day problems in raising her child. She gave the younger mothers emotional support because as one said to me, 'We wanted to hear from other single mothers not just experts. It's great to hear from women who have lived it.'"

Pittsburgh Chapter President Dr. Yvonne Hicks Davis, director of the Child Care and Development Center for Community College of Allegheny County, opened and closed the summit. "The workshop participants," she said, "focused on the strengths of existing single parent families and devised strategies by which we might enhance the communications between supportive agencies and heads of households. The participants also committed their political support to pending and future legislation designed to improve the economic status of single mothers."

Several men who attended were "concerned about being victimized on child support and there was widespread dismay about continuing unemployment," she added. A number of participants also criticized growing use of terminology and employment practices supportive of "white women as a minority," which tends, many thought, to lessen job opportunities for blacks, male and female.

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

	Total	Percent
Population	101,208	100.0
White	57,536	57.0
Black	40,209	40.0
Latino	2,220	2.0
Other Minorities	1,243	1.2
Black Single Mothers	2,026	27.8

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Columbia Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Thursday, May 17, 1984 8:45 A.M.–6 P.M.
Alumni Hall, Benedict College

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Priscilla F. Murrell

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

- Deltas
- Single Mothers and/or Fathers
- Workshop Leaders, Guests

TOTAL 101

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Continental Breakfast
- Opening Session with Keynote Speaker
- Panel Discussion
- Workshops
- Lunch
- Closing Plenary
- Reception

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Education • Job Training • Victimization • Support Networks • Financial Planning • Teenage Mothers • Parenting

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Congaree Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Auxiliary • Sistercare • Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority • S.C. Dept. of Social Services • Bethlehem Community Center • United Black Fund of the Midlands • S.C. Commission on Women Technical Assistance • Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority • Theta Phi Beta Sorority • Opportunities Industrialization Center of S.C., Inc. • S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs • Office of Minority Affairs, University of S.C. • Governor's Office of Employment and Training • Star Light Chapter 364, Order of Eastern Star • South Carolina ETV • Columbia S.C. Chapter National Association of Black Social Workers • Tele-Communications Committee • Sears, Roebuck & Co. • Union Camp • NAACP • Kappa Alpha Psi • AME Women's Missionary Society • The Girlfriends

RECOMMENDATIONS

Publicize the findings of the conference and distribute them to the conference participants and to individuals and agencies able to effect change.

- Sponsor single mothers' support groups, first with adults, then with teenage mothers; possibly with the cooperation of local churches.

Delta Esther Witherspoon (standing right) served as facilitator for the workshop on parenting and child care.

HIGHLIGHTS from the COLUMBIA SUMMIT

Artistic creativity was the hallmark of the summit on problems of the black single mother sponsored by the Columbia, South Carolina Deltas at Benedict College on May 17. In addition to the standard workshop sessions which were a part of Delta summits held around the country, the Columbia conference featured various audiovisual presentations, keynote and panel remarks by single mothers, poetry readings and much more.

In the opening session, during which Columbia Alumnae President Doris Greene extended greetings, the 101 participants viewed an audiovisual presentation of Delta National President Hortense Canady, who issued the "Call to Summit II." This was followed by a special audio presentation – a dramatic rendition of "Calling All Women," by famed actress Ruby Dee, a Delta.

A panel of ten single mothers, who spoke from a variety of perspectives, came next. Eleanor Golar Williams, professor of social work at the University of South Carolina at Columbia, gave preliminary remarks before the single mothers shared their special insights. Patrick Noble of the Columbia Chapter served as moderator.

Panelists included divorced, separated, widowed, teenage and other mothers. Intense audience participation required that the session be extended beyond its originally scheduled time. During the portion allowed for audience participation, Dr. Donald Henderson, assistant superintendent for Richland County School District #1, came forward before the audience and commended his "sisters" for a job well done.

After a break, seven informative workshops followed. Topics included education, parenting, job training, victimization and others. The names of nursery rhymes, such as "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," had been printed on participants' registration folders. Persons with the same nursery rhyme attended the same workshop. The workshop session broke for lunch, then continued in the afternoon.

Delta undergraduates of Iota Chi chapter at the University of South Carolina at Columbia served as hostesses for the luncheon, which featured outstanding single mothers as the keynote speakers. The special guests included Annie Green Nelson, the first black woman to have a novel published in South Carolina; Rosetta White, who was named Mother of the Year in 1982 by a local radio station; and Laura Jefferson, a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose insights and keen sense of humor delighted the audience.

Annie Nelson talked about loneliness, financial struggles, what to say about a father who has deserted the family and other problems of the single mother. Her first husband left her in the 1930s. Her second husband died in 1977 and the third in April of this year. "I'm single forever now," she said.

Devoutly religious, Mrs. Nelson told the audience that trust and faith in God helped her through the difficult years. "I found that the solution to my problems was staying close to God. Otherwise you can fall to pieces," she said.

Mrs. Nelson has done anything but fall to pieces. Six of her eleven children are still living. These include an international lawyer, a dietitian and two teachers.

Mrs. Nelson has professional satisfaction in addition to that which comes from rearing successful children. Her first of four novels was published in 1942. In the fall of 1977, one of her plays was performed by New York's Brooklyn Workshop Theater. Local Deltas are considering a production of her "The Weary Fireside Blues," a play about her experiences as a single mother. Nelson is working on another play at present.

"I'm trying to stay young," quipped Mrs. Nelson, who declined to give her age but confessed to having a 42-year-old son.

"The single mother has a double job on her hands, one which requires her devotion. She's both mother and father. She must spend time with her children and show them she loves them. This is very important.

"But don't give up and don't do anything that would take away from your integrity just because you're alone. Be sure to lean on God. This will be the source of your strength. Nothing is impossible with God," she said.

During the closing session, some 25 persons volunteered to become involved in follow-up activities at the invitation of Summit Coordinator Priscilla Murrell. The divorced mother of two said the conference was good for consciousness-raising. "Many participants said they did not realize single mothers had those problems. The other important thing about the summit was that single mothers realized they were not alone in solving their problems," she added.

The conference ended even as it began, with a special artistic touch. Liz Bell of the Columbia chapter recited the poem, "Sister to Sister."

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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

	Total	Percent
Population	646,356	100.0
White	331,779	51.3
Black	304,958	47.2
Latino	5,225	0.8
Other Minorities	4,394	0.7
Black Single Mothers	19,477	27.9

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Memphis Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 26, 1984 8:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M.
LeMoyne-Owen College

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Sandra C. Vaughn

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	20
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	52
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	10
TOTAL	82

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration
- Opening Sessions
- Luncheon
- Consensus Building/Evaluation

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Coping • Stress • Time Management Workshop • Human Service Programs • Financial Planning • Legal Rights

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• LeMoyne-Owen College • Protective Services • Planned Parenthood • Rape Crisis Center • Tennessee Department of Human Services

EXISTING DELTA PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

The 8-year-old TOTS (Teenage Orientation to Sexuality) program: one or more conferences held each May for male and female teenagers. More than 100 attended the 1984 conference held in conjunction with the Memphis summit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To hold a summit next year and to increase efforts, via news media, churches and community organizations, to bolster attendance by single parents

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HIGHLIGHTS from the MEMPHIS SUMMIT

The power of positive thinking shone through the comment of one single mother at the Memphis summit. "We should try and get people not to be ashamed of being single mothers," she declared. "A woman should accept her role as a single parent and make the situation a stepping stone instead of a stumbling block. Being a single parent is a very hard and demanding job. But once you become one, take the challenge and come out a winner!"

Many single parents who participated said they were going to tell families and friends about the conference and would relay information they gained on coping with stress and legal rights.

The summit was held on the campus of LeMoyne-Owen College and President Walter L. Walker was an enthusiastic participant. He also promised to address the ideas of Summit II in forthcoming speeches. Summit planners were pleased that, in all, some 20 men attended and participated in the all-day conference.

"The number of men who turned out was probably one of the best aspects," Coordinator Sandra Vaughn said. "They were very candid, concerned and saw the responsibility they shared."

After registration, each participant was given a summit kit and a booklet on single parenting. Workshop leaders addressed the entire body and each consultant was given thirty minutes for presentation, questions and answers. LeMoyne-Owen summer political science students served as reporters. Patricia Toler, director of counseling services at LeMoyne-Owen, discussed coping, stress and time management; Gwen Mitchell, director of protective services, human services and financial planning; and Rita Stotts, an attorney, legal rights. At lunch time, participants were invited to choose one of the three consultants they wanted to talk with more intimately and to have lunch with that individual and a facilitator in Snack & Rap sessions in three different rooms. After lunch, the entire group reassembled for consensus building and evaluation.

The summit was videotaped for later broadcast by the local public broadcasting station. "We have been asked to put our version of Summit II on the road," said Dr. Vaughn. "We have two Arkansas requests, one from West Memphis and another from Earle."

During the afternoon, a meeting of TOTS (Teenage Orientation to Sex) was held. Parents attending the summit, had been invited to bring teenage children to the TOTS program for discussion on "How to Say No to Sex," "Contraceptives: Effective Use," "Assuming Responsibility for Your Actions" and "Female and Male Reproductive Organs." Consultants represented Planned Parenthood, the Rape Crisis Center, the Tennessee Department of Human Services and included a teenage mother. Parents of teens were invited to stay for the TOTS session and many did.

State official Mitchell advised single parents to do careful financial planning and budgeting to make sure any governmental assistance checks lasted through the month. Delta chapter president Marian Morrison, a high school librarian, said the financial advice, an admonition that "women do not have to live with abuse" and the way some young people at the summit realized that times their mothers may have been hostile to them stemmed from the pressures of their daily lives, were three major themes of the day.

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

	Total	Percent
Population	455,651	100.0
White	342,577	75.2
Black	105,219	23.1
Latino	3,627	.8
Other Minorities	4,228	.9
Black Single Mothers	6,259	25.8

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Nashville Alumnae Chapter

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 26, 1984 8:30 A.M.–3 P.M.
Hearing Room 16, Legislative Plaza.

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Mary C. Curry
Renee Kerr

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	33
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	7
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	46
TOTAL	86

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Registration/Coffee and Doughnuts
- Opening Session, with Statement of Purpose
- Three Focus Segments (Workshops)
- Lunch
- Plan for Action and Evaluation Segments

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Health Care • Child Care and Parenting • Employment and Training • Legal Aspects • Housing

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• WSMV-TV/Community Service Department • Legal Services of Middle Tennessee, Inc. • Crittenton Services of Nashville • Meharry Medical College • YWCA • Nashville Urban League • Metro Public Schools

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Writing a proposal for funding of a new day care center (single mothers should be trained to take charge of its operations)
- Assign area Deltas to be members of the Nashville Urban League's housing task force
- Establish scholarships for working mothers to offset cost of day care
- Establish a committee to write letters of need assessment to public officials
- Implement programs to keep children of working single parents off the streets
- Create a task force to increase public awareness, with assistance from the Mayor's Office
- Volunteering with various agencies that assist black single mothers
- Confer with school officials about inclusion of self-esteem building courses in curriculum
- Create task forces in all areas (housing, employment, etc.) to follow up and address needs of single mothers

The Nashville Summit II steering committee meets, l. to r., seated: Anne Lenox, president; Mary C. Curry, Summit II coordinator; Lillie Bowman; Wilhelmina Bradford; standing: Millie Washington; Glynis Hughes; Aldorothy Wright; Edith Dowdy; Jusquita Jackson; Ruth Warford; Beatrice Roberts; Ruth Young, Social Action coordinator; Sandra Burns; and Sharon Turner-Friley.

HIGHLIGHTS from the NASHVILLE SUMMIT

A talk by Mearl Purvis, community affairs coordinator for WSMV-TV, was the highlight of the opening session of the Nashville summit, Saturday, May 26, in a Legislative Plaza hearing room.

"We do not have time for rhetoric," declared Mrs. Purvis, a divorced parent of a 10-year-old daughter. "In the past, when this kind of meetings have been held, they've been philosophical rap sessions. But time has long past for those kinds of meetings.

"We are not here to rap, but rather to listen to facts and figures relevant to the problems of black single mothers and to decide *today* what it is we will do about them the minute we walk out that door," she said to an affirming audience of some 86 persons.

Dot Dobbins, managing attorney of the family law section of Legal Services of Middle Tennessee, Inc., laid out some hard, cold facts and figures on child support. "About 41 percent of all custodial mothers never receive a court award for payment," she said.

Attorney Dobbins stated that the rates are even worse for black and Hispanic single mothers, as 63 percent of black and 56 percent of Hispanic mothers do not receive a child support award through the courts. Of those who do receive awards, only 46 percent are successful in getting full payment from the noncustodial parent.

Alimony awards are even less likely: only 15 percent of divorced or separated women are awarded it or an agreement to receive alimony, and only 43 percent of those ever receive full payment.

Ms. Dobbins added that the level of child support set for the noncustodial parent is usually not equitable, given expenses of the parent who has child custody. "The level of child support awarded by courts is insufficient to pay for even half the custodial parent's costs of child rearing. When child support is paid, it constitutes only about 20 percent of the total family income for the custodial parent," she remarked.

Ms. Dobbins said the good news, however, is that the Tennessee legislature adopted a measure in 1982 to crack down on delinquency in child support payment. Tennessee courts now have the authority to order a wage assignment on the noncustodial parent's paycheck if he or she fails to pay within 30 days of a lapsed payment due date. According to Attorney Dobbins, a similar bill has passed both the House and Senate on the federal level and is now in a conference committee, which is determining the period of time which must elapse before a wage assignment will be automatically made.

L. Cheryl McCord, a Delta and outreach worker for Crittenton Services of Nashville, a counseling services center for teenage mothers, said the facts and figures relating to cost of day care constitute one of the most serious problems facing teenage, indeed all, single mothers. "Many find it easier to stay on welfare than to acquire a job which will pay for day care, which costs a minimum $35-$45 weekly and can go as high as $70," she said.

Nashville Alumnae President Anne Lenox shared Ms. McCord's view of the seriousness of the lack of affordable child care facilities in Nashville. "If there was a common thread that ran through the summit, it was this concern over day care. That statement just kept coming up — 'If only we had somewhere to leave the kids,'" remarked Ms. Lenox.

Ms. Lenox said many teenage mothers simply drop out of school and never complete their education because they have no adequate child care. This then hampers their ability to get well-paying jobs.

When area Deltas meet in the fall to determine postsummit strategies, they will discuss ways to work in cooperation with other agencies to utilize area churches as day care facilities, Ms. Lenox reported.

"Churches have a lot of empty space and buses that sit unused during the week and we believe retired people could be used as bus drivers and the mothers themselves could be trained to work in the day care centers," she said. Long-range plans include operation of a 24-hour center to serve nurses and other mothers who work at night, Ms. Lenox added.

Ms. McCord noted that another problem of teenage mothers is inadequate parenting skills and knowledge about child development. "Many of these teens were not reared by their mothers. Their grandmothers brought them up and therefore, there are a lot of old wives' tales passed down. You visit a home, for instance, and you find an infant with potatoes tied around his neck. You ask the mother why and she says the baby is teething and that's supposed to take away the pain," she said.

Ms. McCord had also encountered mothers who brag about feeding their infants Thanksgiving dinner or other adult food at four weeks. Infants shouldn't be fed anything except baby food up until about six months, Ms. McCord cautioned. "Without trying to intimidate the young mother or make her feel stupid, we help her to realize that there are better ways of doing these things," she said.

Nashville summit participants also gained a wealth of information from experts in housing, health care and job training. "We learned so much. We really didn't know that we had such a network of organizations in Nashville already working on many of these problems. We were just spellbound at the wealth of information shared," said summit coordinator Mary Curry.

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

	Total	Percent
Population	1,595,138	100.0
White	834,061	52.3
Black	436,392	27.3
Latino	281,331	17.6
Other Minorities	43,354	2.7
Black Single Mothers	22,846	21.8

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY

Houston Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter
Houston Alumnae Chapter
Delta Gamma (Texas Southern University)

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT

Saturday, May 19, 1984 8 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
Texas Southern University School of Education Building

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)

Aster Lee Mock

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

- Deltas
- Single Mothers and/or Fathers
- Workshop Leaders, Guests

TOTAL 125

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE

- Keynote
- Workshops
- Open Discussion

WORKSHOP TOPICS

• Financial Planning, Sources of Income and Legal Rights • Parenting, Self-Esteem, Role Models • Education and Job Training • Political Education and Involvement • Support Network, Child Care

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

• Teenage Pregnancy Project at Texas Southern University • National Council of Negro Women • Alpha Phi Alpha • Sigma Gamma Rho • Alpha Kappa Alpha • Phi Beta Sigma • Zeta Phi Beta • Eta Phi Beta • Omega Psi Phi

RECOMMENDATIONS

Organizations Should:

Broaden comprehensive career education programs

- Set up prevention, intervention programs to curb teenage pregnancy
- Centralize distribution of financial, educational, birth control and other community services available to single parents
- Develop self-help directory of resource and service agencies
- Put child support enforcement information in simple lay language

Single Parents Should:

- Develop positive attitudes by setting short-term goals
- Holding parenting skill workshops

Deltas Should:

- Work with elected officials to change existing public assistance laws which now penalize recipients and establish support to secure new legislation
- Recommend to Houston Board of Education that now closed Dunbar Elementary (in third ward) be used as an alternative school and day care center for teenage mothers.
- Expand support of the Impact/Child/Parent Demonstration Project at Texas Southern University
- Research and monitor new Latchkey Project in the Spring Branch Community

HIGHLIGHTS from the HOUSTON SUMMIT

A woman physician, Delta Edith I. Jones, M.D., keynoted the Houston summit. Raised from age three along with three siblings by her own widowed mother, Dr. Jones is a demonstrated achiever. The first black to graduate from the University of Arkansas, Dr. Jones has practiced medicine in Houston for 25 years.

"Go for it," she advised young people at the summit. "If you make a mistake, dust yourself off, pull yourself up and become respectable citizens.

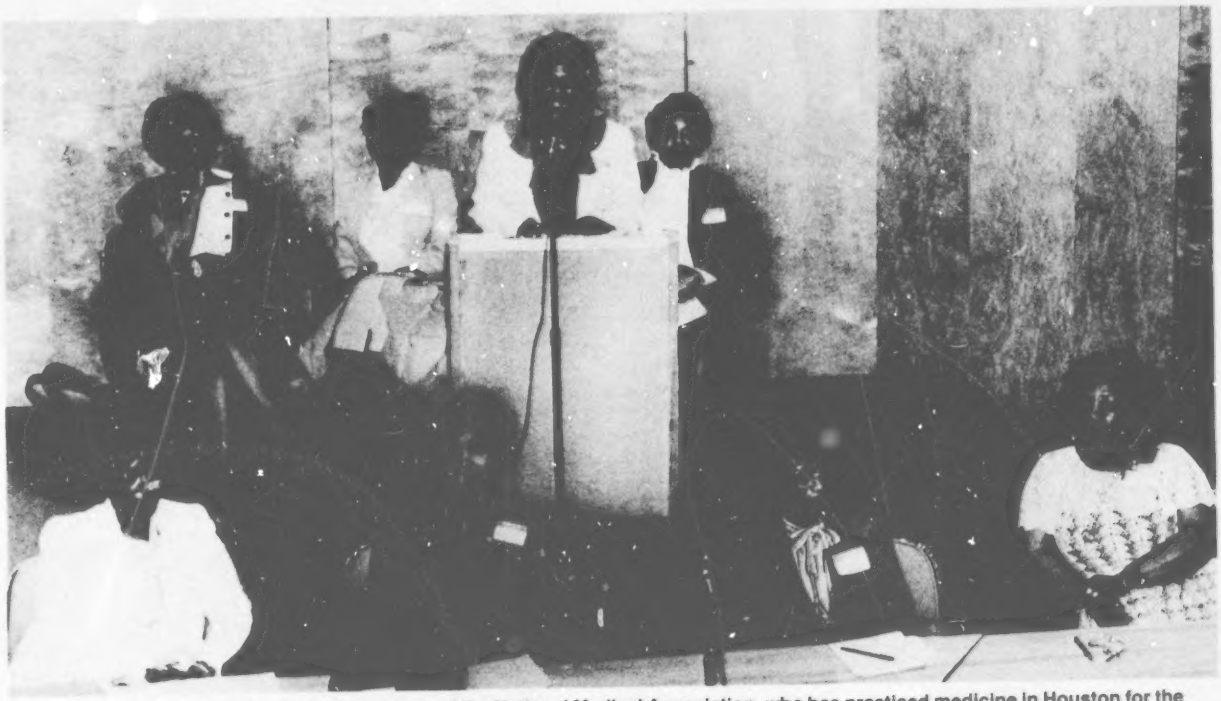
"Whatever a person's origins," she declared, acknowledging her own, "you can make a difference in your life in spite of your circumstances."

Houston summit workshops were each provided a facilitator, recorder, critic, timer and evaluator making for lively discussion. The conferees agreed unanimously that more time was needed for workshops.

Deltas in the Metropolitan chapter worked throughout the past year with the Teenage Pregnancy Project at Texas Southern University. The project, directed by Dr. Bobbie Henderson, a Delta, operates under the title, "Impact/Child/Parent Demonstration Project" and is believed to be the only one of its kind in the nation. The assistant director, Dr. Deanna L. Burrell, a social worker, discussed the problem of pregnancy among teens.

Due to the efforts of Dr. Henderson and Dr. Burrell, the J.C. Penney Foundation, which also funded the project, furnished refreshments during summit registration and a catered luncheon to all participants.

Other summit speakers included Attorney Sherrita Lee; Gloria Cooke, program director, Crittenton, Division of the DePelchin Center; Jacqueline M. McMillan, project division, Child Abuse Section, Family Service Center; Dr. J.B. Jones, professor of education, Texas Southern; Edward Fam-O-Juro, a doctoral candidate in education at Texas Southern; Texas State Representative Larry Q. Evans; Dora Hodges of Texas Southern's Home Economics Department, and Delta Zoia L. Jones, state organizer-coordinator, National Council of Negro Women, Inc. They were also workshop leaders.



Delta Edith I. Jones (at podium), president-elect of the National Medical Association, who has practiced medicine in Houston for the last 25 years, keynoted the Houston summit. Also shown are (from left to right, upper level): Deana Burrell, presenter; Henri Henson, consultant, Aster Lee Mock, summit coordinator. Lower level: Audrie Lawton, President, Houston Alumnae Chapter; Jacqueline Bostic, president, Houston Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter; Brenda Parker, summit co-chair; Zoia Jones, summit co-chair and a member of the Houston Metropolitan Chapter.

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

	Total	Percent
Population	328,576	100.0
White	221,937	67.5
Black	96,360	29.3
Latino	5,093	1.6
Other Minorities	5,186	1.6
Black Single Mothers	2,934	26.9

SPONSORING CHAPTER AND CITY
Newport News Alumnae

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SUMMIT
Saturday, May 19, 1984 8 A.M.–3 P.M.
McGrew Towers
Hampton Institute
Hampton, Virginia

SUMMIT COORDINATOR(S)
Paula E. Page

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

• Deltas	41
• Single Mothers and/or Fathers	30
• Workshop Leaders, Guests	10
TOTAL	81

FORMAT OF CONFERENCE
- Registration
- Opening Session, with Keynote Speaker
- Workshops
- Closing Plenary Session, with Door Prizes

WORKSHOP TOPICS
• Teenage Mothers • Financial Planning • Child Care and Substance Abuse • Physical and Mental Health • Transition to Head of Household – Legal Rights • Job Training

AGENCIES REPRESENTED
• Local School Systems • Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority • Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority • Zeta Phi Beta Sorority • National Council of Negro women • Y.M.C.A. • N.A.S.A. • United States Air Force • Career Development Center • Science and Technology Corp.

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Hold similar workshops in housing projects using same format and site should be accessible to persons most in need of information
- Summit conferences should be held on a yearly basis
- Network with area churches to address concerns of single mothers
- To enhance attendance at future summits, provide baby-sitting service and secure more publicity
- Hold small workshops during the year emphasizing one issue

Councilwoman Jessie M. Rattley (at microphone) shares a light moment with Newport News Summit Coordinator Paula Page as she extends greetings to participants during the opening session.

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HIGHLIGHTS from the NEWPORT NEWS SUMMIT

More than 80 persons journeyed to the Hampton Institute campus in Hampton, Virginia to attend the summit spearheaded by Newport News Alumnae on Saturday, May 19, 1984. Newport News Deltas were assisted by Deltas from one undergraduate chapter (Omicron Tau at Newport News' Christopher Newport College) and seven other alumnae chapters: Chesapeake/Virginia Beach, Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach City, and Williamsburg alumnae chapters.

The summit's setting was McGrew Towers, one of Hampton's newer conference buildings which overlooks the river. Newport News Councilwoman Jessie Rattley was among the list of important guests who extended greetings to conference participants before Dr. Carroll Hardy, associate dean of student affairs for the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, set the tone for the day's events with a compelling keynote address. Dr. Hardy traced the plight of the black female head of household since slavery, stating that relief for black single mothers was long overdue.

Participants then went to workshops where they received helpful advice on job training, physical and mental health, and a number of other topics.

John Coles, chief executive officer of People's Savings and Loan Association in Hampton, led a workshop on financial planning for single mothers, advising them on home ownership and ways to institute forced savings.

Stressing that one needn't have a spouse or much money to purchase real estate, Coles urged single mothers to act in partnership with each other to purchase a home. After the purchase, the single mothers could live in and fix up the home over a few years, then rent it out and divide up the proceeds.

"Sources for locating homes include ads in the newspaper for foreclosures and settlements of tax liens. Maybe a friend is about to lose a home. The Veterans Administration and the Farmers Home Administration both have tremendous backlogs of housing they're trying to get rid of and these can be had for a minimal downpayment," noted Coles.

Coles said home ownership can help pay for a child's college education. "When you get ready to buy your second home, instead of selling the first one, take out a second mortgage on it to finance your child's education, then absorb the cost by renting the property.

"When the child graduates, as a graduation present, instead of giving him a car, give him a home. This way he can start out with something most of our kids don't have — a break," said Coles.

The graduate can then sell the house for cash, keep it as an investment and continue to take the rental income or keep the home himself, Coles pointed out.

"Most blacks don't establish any sort of estate. We die and the only thing we leave our kids is bills. This way we can leave them a piece of the land," he continued. Coles commented that children who live with parents who have good thrift/savings habits will develop them, too.

After the morning workshops, participants enjoyed box lunches supplied by an area fast food outlet, then attended afternoon workshops before the closing session which included door prize awards.

Summit Coordinator Paula E. Page said the chapter will network with various area social service agencies and churches to learn how Deltas can assist in finding solutions for the problems of black single mothers. In any future effort, the Deltas will more thoroughly solicit participation of other sororities, job training centers and other relevant public and private organizations.

Felicia Johnson, the vice president of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Hampton Chapter said the AKAs will network with Deltas to help meet the needs of area single mothers and will develop a program similar to the Delta summits on their own. Both Ms. Page and Ms. Johnson were concerned that the summits reach more lower income single mothers.

"This population often feels that we (professionsals) are not out to do that much good. But we must continue to develop outreach programs like the summit to show that we are genuinely concerned," said Ms. Johnson, who is administrative assistant in the communication disorders department at Hampton Institute.

Ms. Page said many of the low-income mothers could not get to Hampton so the chapter plans to hold smaller workshops, focusing on one issue at a time (teenage parenting, for example), in the housing projects.

"One of the housing projects has a beautiful new day care center. If we held a summit there, it would be more accessible to the people who could most benefit from this information," she said.

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CONCLUSION
Hortense G. Canady
National President

We wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation the cooperation of all the organizations listed, and some not listed, with the Summit II project in cities across the nation and with our national office. I also wish to thank those chapters of Delta Sigma Theta that so freely offered to participate in this demonstration project. Their experience and shared knowledge will make each succeeding conference held elsewhere more productive.

We are also grateful for the assistance of the U.S. Bureau of the Census and are appreciative of much research material available to us including the National Urban League's impressive study on the black family.

We of Delta plan to strength our efforts locally and nationally in behalf of black single mothers. With this document, the proceedings of the first conferences held around the country on black single mothers, we speak to the future. In the months and years ahead, as we continue this effort, we hope other organizations will join us as they have so generously this past spring.

The consultations have yielded far more recommendations than it is possible for one organization to translate into programs, yet they chart pathways that all of us can follow as we begin to offer needed support for our sisters.

Several of the consultations recorded expressions of gratitude from the women who felt that finally someone was listening to them. It was reported that some meetings were like old time religious revivals because so many persons stood up to testify about the very personal and human experiences that led them to their present condition. One young woman attributed her college education and successful career to the help and encouragement one Delta Chapter gave her when as a teenager she had become pregnant.

Following are some of the recommendations that came out of many of the summits and which we would like to list in conclusion:

- More effective job training programs
- Parental training programs for males and females
- Day care on a sliding fee scale
- Day care for children of mothers who wish to return to school
- Coalition of organizations to address the problem of teenage pregnancy
- Hold similar consultations in housing projects using the same format
- Hold Summit meetings on an annual basis
- Network with area churches to address concerns of single mothers
- Hold small workshops during the year focusing on one issue during each session
- Invite more men to participate in a Summit III consultation
- Develop outreach program to enlist all Delta Chapters
- Formation of a task force to help women apply for services provided under the Job Training Partnership Act through the private sector
- Extended Day Programs in all public schools to help latch key children
- Letters to Congress about the lack of adequate health care for the medically indigent
- Education with parental involvement in birth control for teens
- Increased communication between agencies, courts, and service providers
- Full-day health clinic for single black parents and children — parental care
- Institute in politics and government presented by a nonprofit group to train women in the political process
- Tutorial programs for youth, counseling programs for single mothers
- Task Forces in housing, employment, and legal rights
- Increase job opportunities and career advancement
- Scholarships for working mothers
- Teach self-esteem in schools
- Hold public forums to ascertain needs and seek solutions
- Emergency housing.

Michael Harrington makes the point in *The New American Poverty:* "A new campaign for social decency is not simply good and moral, but is also a necessity if we are to solve the problems that bedevil not just the poor, but almost all of us."

Delta Sigma Theta's call to action is the beginning of that new campaign.

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Delta National President Hortense G. Canady, of Lansing, Michigan, announces the Summit II initiative during a press conference on January 27, 1984 at the Washington Hilton in the nation's capital.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Nation

"A Threat to the Future"

Coming to grips with the crumbling black family

The most difficult fact for white Americans to understand is that the circumstances of the Negro American community in recent years [have] probably been getting worse, not better. The fundamental problem is that of family structure. The evidence—not final, but powerfully persuasive—is that the Negro family in the urban ghettos is crumbling.

—Daniel P. Moynihan
U.S. Department of Labor report, 1965

Practically a generation has passed since that well-intended policy paper prompted an angry dispute over the nature of the mod... ern American black... male-headed households," says Norton, a law professor at Georgetown University "is the central problem in black families and why poverty is so lasting." Teen-age mothers too often produce children who become teen-age mothers. Says John Bayne, a Washington social services official: "It is harder to break the cycle for kids who have only known staying home watching the soaps on TV and getting a welfare check. They are kids who have kids." Many critics of the welfare system complain that it provides incentives for recipient families to break apart. The evidence is mixed a... American racism are also responsible for the broken black family.

The Fisk workshops emphasized voluntarist remedies, such as black church programs and promoting home ownership among working-class blacks. They also urged a "domestic Marshall Plan" as well as wage and price controls. Although the black family's problems do not seem soluble by quick fixes, there are a few heartening signs. Among black teenagers the birth rate has declined slightly, more effective access to contraception could accelerate that trend. Some recent research has found that the culture of poverty is escapable. According to one University of Michigan study, most children from poor families do not become impoverished adults.

Scattered grass-roots attempts ... families also seem hopeful. In Los ... Dr. James Mays, a ...

JET.
A Johnson Publication
March 26, 1984
Vol. 66, No. 3

Words of the Week

Hortense G. Canady, president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the nation's largest Black women's organization, offering one theory why some young uneducated Black women are having children out of wedlock: *"Having a child is probably the best thing that's ever going to happen to them in their whole lifetime and the only thing that ... can contribute ..."*

CHICAGO INDEPENDENT BULLETIN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1984

Single Mothers Program

NATIONAL PRESIDENT Hortense G. Canady, of Lansing, Mich., announc... Summit II: A Call to Action in Support of Black Single Mothers at a news confere... in Washington, D.C. In May, Delta chapters in more than 35 cities will hold sum... workshops to hammer out local solutions to the problems of unemployment, ed... tional and income deprivation faced by many single mothers. Shown with ... Canady are l to r: MS. ELLA MCNAIR, Delta program director; MRS. LY... TAYLOR, of Alexandria, Va., chair, Delta's Projects/Program Planning De... ment Committee; DR. BERNADINE DENNING, of Detroit, chair, Delta's ... ; and MRS. HENDRICK, Delta executive direct...

THE EVENING SUN, Tuesday, June 5, 1984

Sorority's conference seeks to help black single mothers

By Mark Arax
Evening Sun Staff

The plight of black single mothers, whose growing ranks account for a significant number of the poverty and welfare households in Baltimore, will be the focus of ... conference ... tomorrow at Morgan ...

The confer... A Call to Act... Single Mother... ways to deal ... black single ... than half of ... timore.

It is amo... conferences ... chapters of ... rority, the ... ganization ... Canady, the ... organizatio... ence with ...

The confer...

a problem particularly acute in Baltimore.

In 1970, 35 percent of all black households with children in Baltimore were headed by women. By 1980, that figure had risen to 53.4 percent. For the country as a whole, it was 42 percent ... according to 1980 census figures.

...cent of welfare caseload in the ... according to June 1983 welfare ... Although statistics are ... available for the percentage of ... single mothers living in po... about 60 percent of all female-h... households in Baltimore are im... ished.

Because eight out of 10 f...

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

Blacks See Blacks Saving the Family

By DOROTHY J. GAITER
Special to The New York Times

NASHVILLE, May 5 — The black community itself must save the black family from further deterioration, the leaders of more than 100 national black organizations decided at the three-day Black Family Summit over the weekend.

John E. Jacob, president of the National Urban League, said the problems of the black family "in part reflect what America has done to black people." Help from the Government and the private sector remains essential, participants agreed.

"But at the same time," Mr. Jacob said, "we have to recognize that many of our problems may be self-inflicted ... that we may have allowed our past anger at what America has done to distract from our own need for self-development and strengthened community values."

Addressing Professor 'Derogatory'

"In concentrating on the ravages of discrimination and poverty," he said, "we may have neglected the fact that there is a lot we can do about our own problems ourselves."

The conference at Fisk University, which ended today, was sponsored by the Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Jacob said that for too long the black community may have been "overly defensive, interpreting public discussion of 'counterproductive tendencies' in our community as an effort to ... [illegible] ... interpretations ...

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1984

Meetings to Focus on Black Family

By DOROTHY J. GAITER
Special to The New York Times

DETROIT, April 28 — In a building a few miles from downtown that used to be a maternity home, Emily Palmer and a staff of social workers at the Lula Belle Stewart Center are helping adolescent parents, pregnant teen-agers and their parents get on with their lives.

In the ... rority's Detroit forum on June 18.

These efforts have sprung from concern over the fact that nearly half of all black households are headed by women, a rapidly increasing proportion, and that more than half of black babies are born to unwed mothers. The breakdown of the traditional family structure has ... ing somebody else shape and design your destiny."

A few miles away, the Children's Aid Society, which was founded to care for children orphaned by the Civil War, operates on the philosophy that "the child's best resource is his family and ... fam... " said ... dir... servic...

THE CHICAGO METRO NEWS SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Deltas offer plan to save Black Family

Currently, households headed by Black wo... men are nearly 50 percent of all Black families. Fifty five percent of Black infants are born to single mothers. Many of these children are raised in poverty due to inadequate income and the fact that most women especially Black women, on the average, earn far less than men. From 1960 to 1982 as families headed by Black women rose to 47 percent from 21 percent, unemployment increased," says Hortense Canady, President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She also ou... her organization's plan to ease the plight of single mothers.

On the upcoming edition of TONY BRO... JOURNAL - The Broken Family," the crisi... facing the Black family is examined by si... persons from two national Black organiz... that are seeking solutions to the problem. ... Ms. Canady to discuss the issue is ... McGhee, Director of Research at the N... Urban League.

According to statistics compiled by N... Urban League, 83 percent of the births ... teenagers occurred outside of marria... rising to 29 percent for White teens. The League is one of the organizations partic... in a summit conference of National Or... tions on the Black Family. The objective ... conference is to find solutions to the ... challenge that threatens not only the survival of Black people but also the social fabric of the nation."

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL is America's long... ning and top-rated Black-Affairs televi... program, having been sponsored by Pepsi-Cola ... executive years. It will be ... at 1pm on Sunday.

JET
A Johnson Publ...
May 21, 1984
Vol. 66, No. 11
(ISSN 0021-5996)

Deltas Sponsor Summit To Help Single Mothers

Delta Sigma Theta Sor... recently sponsored "Summ... A Call to Action in Supp... Black Single Mothers ... University of Maryland ... large Park to aid in the d... programs and projects o... al level to alleviate the ... of these women.

Perspective

A forum—ideas, analysis, opinion

Chicago Tribune Monday, February 6, 1984 Section 1 11

New interest in an old problem

William Raspberry

WASHINGTON—Twenty years ago, the breakdown of the black American family was an unmentionable. Today, the black American leadership seems to be talking about little else.

The new attitude is partly the result of a new brand of hard-nosed honesty that has black Americans looking to their own resources for solutions to problems (crime, inadequate public schools) that they used to be content to blame on white people. And it is partly the result of numbers that finally have grown too large to ig... more.

In 1960, only 8 percent of black families with children were headed by women. By the 1980s, when Patrick ... was provoking the wrath of ... leadership by daring to talk ... family instability, the ... had risen to 41 percent. Today ... percent. The ... families ...

leadership is reacting with more than embarrassment. Hortense G. Canady, national president of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the largest organization of black women in America, was in Washington recently to announce a major new program to provide help for single mothers.

The NAACP and the Urban League, the top civil rights organizations in the nation, have been studying the problem and soon will announce a joint program to do something about it.

Any number of local efforts already are under way, some of them purely voluntar... others funded by founda... tions or other grants. One thing they won't have to worry about is getting in each other's way. There are ... enough pieces of the problem to go ... may decide to focus on ... entrance, while the ... concentrates on ... to push ...

"We're talking about not just the ... poor but all single heads of ... households," Canady said. "Even for ... professional women who are heads of ... households, whether through widow... hood, divorce, abandonment or non... marriage, there support systems just aren't there for child care, for all sorts of things these women need."

Some of the organizations will target social policy, including rules that foster welfare dependency. Some will stress parenting skills for adolescent parents (or prospective parents) to help their young children grow up to lay heavy emphasis on morality and values. ... while others will be ... hardheadedly pragmatic.

The important thing, though, is that the devastating problem of households headed by black women is at last an open topic of serious discussion and planning—almost an obsession.

Talking about it won't solve the problem, of course. But it is fair to suggest that 20 years of refusing to talk about it seems to have made it a ... deal worse.

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Delta Sigma Theta is grateful for the splendid cooperation of news media, local and national, throughout the nation on Summit II: A Call to Action in Support of Black Single Mothers. This montage of some of the clippings indicates the breadth of newspaper coverage. We would also like to express our gratitude to CBS Sunday Morning, and MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour, Tony Brown's Journal, the Phil Donahue Show and America's Black Forum (Julian Bond, host) for their coverage and/or interviews with President Canady or other Deltas. In addition, our thanks go to scores of local radio and television talk show hosts and producers for interviews with national officers and staff or local Deltas about the summits.

Socially Speaking

BY OPAL C. BLANKINSHIP

THE CALL, KANSAS CITY, MO., WEEK OF FEBRUARY

Delta President Sets Summit II: Call To Actio

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Mrs. Hortense G. Canady, national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the nation's single largest black women's organization, 125,000 members strong, issued a call this week for Summit II: "A Call to Action in Support of Black Single Mothers."

The summit, to which Delta is inviting all women's org... major foundat... cerned corpo... be held the ... May, traditionally a time of much Delta activity, Mrs. Canady said.

Delta Sigma Theta launches this national program to "ease the plight of the estimated two million black single mothers in the United States" (since 1975), President Canady declared.

"In our view, the economic problems of underemployed, ... single

...e G. CANADY

...tion. The issues have been identified in many empirical studies detailing the problems of single mothers. Now is the time for concrete programs, specific projects and legislative initiatives to solve those problems with the commitment of the public and private sectors. We have talked enough," she added.

Mrs. Canady held a news conference at the Washington Hilton here, to announce the new pro-

The Washington Post

January 28, 1981 STYLE

Canady's Challenge

Sorority Launches Program for Single Black Mothers

By Jacqueline Trescott

In her personal and professional life, Hortense Canady, the president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, has experienced the successes and failures of single black ... Yesterday, she and the 125,000 members ... ize launching a national ... black single mothers, ... in 30 cities in May to ... sues and propose solutio... "We're at the time to ... to this concern because ... that if we do not, no on... we do not, why should ... If we cannot, who else c... a press conference.

"My father died whe... she said. Fortunately, her mother was educated, earned three degrees, and was the director of elementary education at Lane College in Jackson, Tenn. Canady's grandparents

Lansing State Journal

Founded 1855

Editorial Page

Sun., Feb. 5, 1984

Vital issue finally recognized

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — Twenty years ago, the breakdown of the black American family was an unmentionable. Today, the black American leadership seems to be talking about hardly anything else.

The new attitude is partly the result of a new brand of hardnosed honesty that has black Americans looking to their own resources for solutions to problems (crime, inadequate public schools) that they used to be content to blame on white people. And it is partly the result of numbers that finally have grown too big to ignore.

Back in 1950, only ... black families ...

Sorority, the largest organization of black women in America, was in town last week to announce a major new program to provide help for single mothers.

The NAACP may decide to focus on families, for instance, while the Urban League concentrates its efforts on teen-age girls. The Deltas hope to push their efforts beyond the obvious poverty link ...

"Even for professio... are heads of house... through widowhood, ... donment or nonma... port systems like... child ...

USA TODAY

CLOSE-UP: THE BLACK FAMILY IN CRISIS

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1984

Can the black middle class help?

The battle of the sexes

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1984

STRATEGIES FOCUS ON SINGLE MOTHERS

Group Winding Up a 'Summit' on Aiding Black Families

By DOROTHY J. GAITER

Special to The New York Times

BALTIMORE, June 6 — Several strategies to aid single mothers were recommended at a conference here today by members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the largest organization of black women in the country, ...

The sorority's current program, called Summit Two, A Call to Action in Support of Black Single Mothers, represents the second nationwide effort undertaken by black national organizations in little more than a month that is aimed at strengthening black families. At Fisk University in early May, black leaders of more than 100 organizations called for full employment, wage and price controls, affordable day care and a "domestic Marshall plan." They urged that more black churches establish that more black credit unions, that more black businesses expand markets beyond the black community, that more families be encouraged to buy their homes and that blacks seek more control over their children's education.

Members to Carry Out Plan

... the Delta Sigma Theta program, ...

CHI/DEF - Mon., June 25, 1984

Deltas meet single moms

Many women of different circumstances, single, divorced, married, young and old came to Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.'s Baltimore Summit II. In Support of Black Single Mothers which took place recently. Since May had more than 32 summits across the country in support of Black single mothers. The sorority is for new legislation affecting women, especially child support and pay equity. Shown surrounded by young Black single mothers from the Baltimore area, Boston, co-coordinators of Summit II and Hortense G. Canady of Baltimore Alumnae C... front (left) Hazel H. Parks, president, Baltimore's Summit II

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INQUIRY

Topic: BLACK FAMILIES

Hortense G. Canady

Few programs really help black women

USA TODAY: Why is Delta Sigma Theta sponsoring a national conference on black single mothers?

CANADY: ... one of the major issues which we have been aware of as a sorority ... involved in them ... as good executive action ... we have to do what we can ... that we can ... to help ... that we ... to help ... that we ... to help ... that we

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